

2600

TEXAS
FEDERATION
NOTICE!

The Hacker Quarterly

VOLUME TEN, NUMBER ONE
SPRING 1993

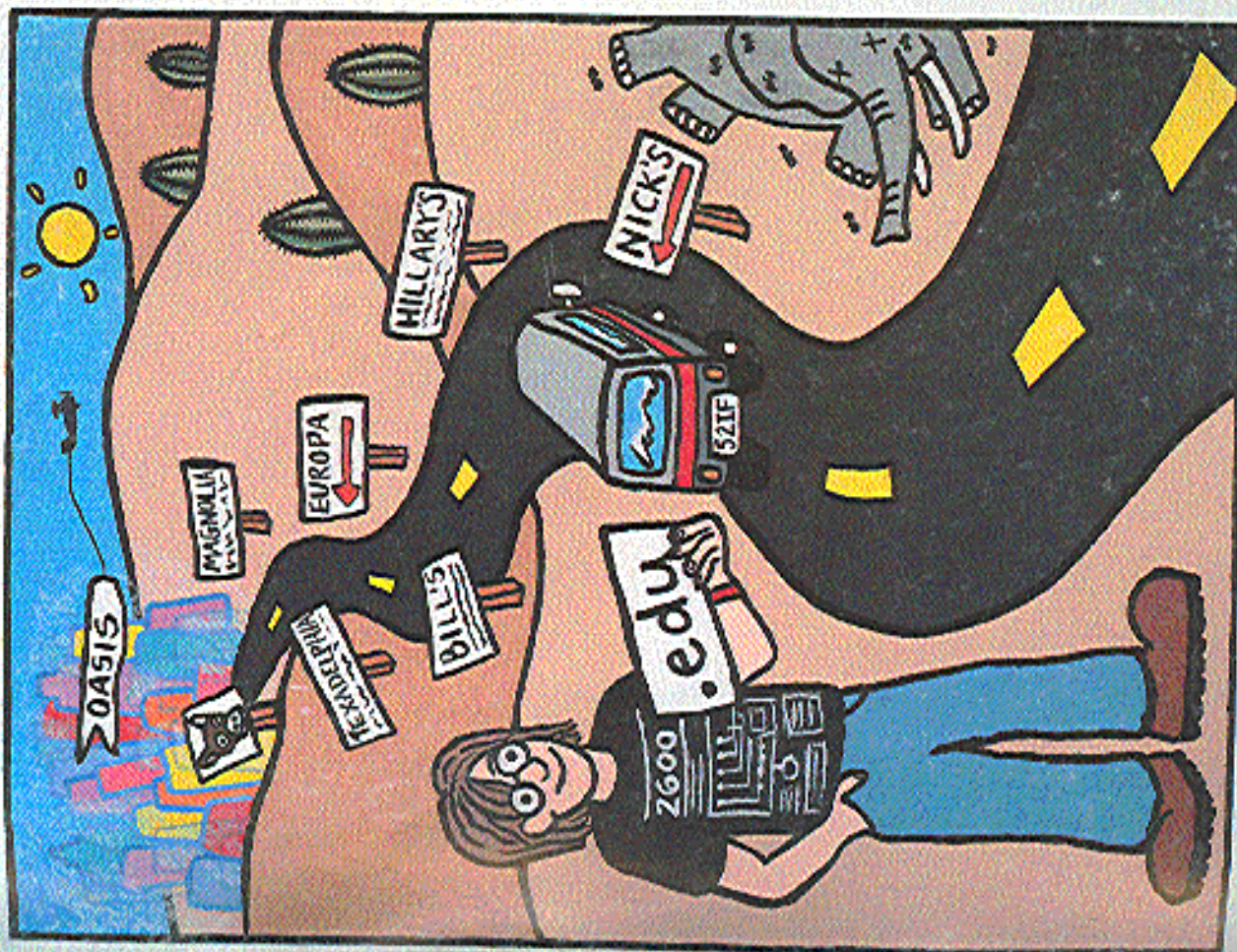
\$4

program

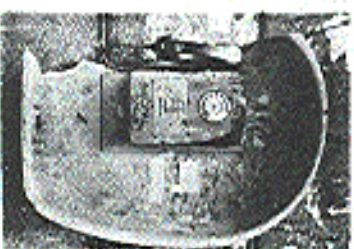
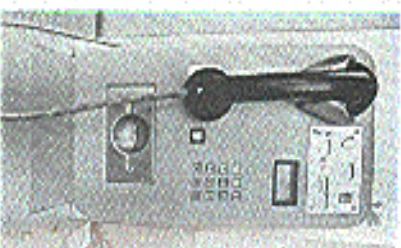
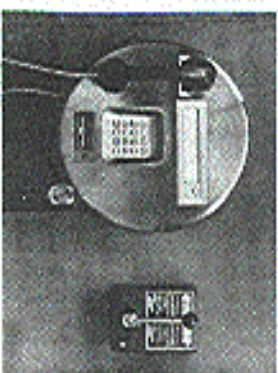
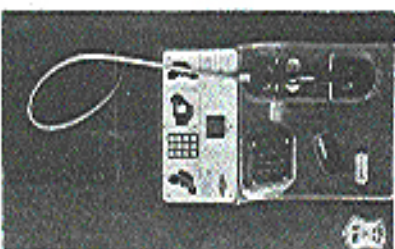
Cellular Magic	4
Trouble in the White House	12
Beige Box Construction	14
Descrambling Cable	16
Secret Service On Trial	18
Letters	24
Acronyms	34
A Study of Hackers	38
2600 Marketplace	41
Getting Your File	42
British News	44

OUR ADDRESS:

2600 Magazine
PO Box 752
Middle Island, NY 11953 U.S.A.



EUROPEAN PAYPHONES



LEFT TO RIGHT FROM THE TOP: Budapest, Hungary; Salzburg, Austria; Munich, Germany (with emergency call handle - left for fire, right for police); Sofia, Bulgaria ("Out of Order" written above dialer); Sofia, Bulgaria ("Out of Order" strongly implied).
PHOTOS BY KISHON

SEND YOUR PAYPHONE PHOTOS TO: 2600 PAYPHONES, PO BOX 99, MIDDLE ISLAND, NY 11953. REWARD FOR MONTAGLIAN PAYPHONES!

2600 (ISSN 0749-3851) is published quarterly by 2600 Enterprises Inc., 7 Strong's Lane, Setauket, NY 11733. Second class postage permit paid at Setauket, New York. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

2600, P.O. Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953-0752.

Copyright (c) 1993 2600 Enterprises, Inc.

Yearly subscription: U.S. and Canada --\$21 individual, \$50 corporate (U.S. funds).

Overseas -- \$30 individual, \$65 corporate.

Back issues available for 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992

at \$25 per year, \$50 per year overseas. Individual issues available

from 1988 on at \$6.25 each, \$7.50 each overseas.

ADDRESS ALL SUBSCRIPTION CORRESPONDENCE TO:

2600 Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953-0752.

FOR LETTERS AND ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS, WRITE TO:

2600 Editorial Dept., P.O. Box 99, Middle Island, NY 11953-0099.

INTERNET ADDRESS: 2600@well.sf.ca.us

2600 Office Line: 516-751-2600, 2600 FAX Line: 516-751-2608

STAFF

Editor-In-Chief

Emmanuel Goldstein

Office Manager

Tampuraf

Artwork

Aitra Gibbs

"The Secret Service didn't do a good job in this case. We know no investigation took place. Nobody ever gave concern as to whether statutes were violated. We know there was damage." - Judge Sparks, Steve Jackson vs. Secret Service, January 28, 1992

Writers: Billist, Blue Whale, Eric Corley, Count Zero, John Drake, Paul Estev, Mr. French, Bob Hardy, Inhuman, Knight Lightning, Kevin Mitnick, The Plague, Marshall Plann, David Ruderman, Bernie S., Silent Switchman, Scott Skinner, Mr. Upsetter, Dr. Williams, and the digital majority.

Technical Expertise: Rop Gonggrip, Pribor Opik, Geo. C. Tilyou, Shout Outs: Jon L., Steve J., Franklin, Ozona and the Aussinites.

Cellular Magic

By Bradford

Let me start out by saying this article won't be in the best of english because as I'll be slipping around a little quoting data from various manuals so it goes into my mind. It will however, allow anyone that reads it thoroughly, and obtains the manuals and equipment specified within, to do virtually anything regarding cellular!

ESN—Emergency Serial Number (every cellular has one in Rome)

MIN—The cellular's phone number (also stored in every cellular's ROM)

Reverse Channel—The channel the cellular phone broadcasts on.

Forward Channel—The channel the cell site broadcasts on.

Remember these key terms as they are the secret to cellular.

Most cellulars have the ESN/MIN located in an enclosure located somewhere on the circuit board (older cellulars may not have an ESN). These are usually 24/256 or 212/512 groups which can be stored or changed by standard phone numbers. They also contain the cellular's programming which can be changed.

When you power up a cellular, it sends its ESN/MIN to the cell site on the reverse channel. The cell site then returns the MIN with an OK signal. If their database verifies the ESN/MIN, some newer cell site software will verify the ESN/MIN with the CO, before allowing the call. If everything is OK, the cellular will then be able to place a call.

The reverse channel's ESN/MIN and related data can be captured by equipment which will list later. It seems like some scoundrels have captured other people's ESN/MIN and started new phones enabling another cellular phone to act as the original. Rumor has it that hackers have gone as far as actually changing the phone's software whereby the program jumps past the ESN/MIN address in the epoch to an address location that can be programmed into memory via the handset. Yet another rumor has it that some even go as far as re-programming the software to capture other cellular's ESN/MIN and automatically store the data in memory. This naturally allows someone to place fraudulent calls while frequently changing ESN/MINs to avoid all forms of detection.

The cell sites usually use frequencies on the reverse channel A base is forward channel. The reverse channels are usually 45 mhz below the forward channels. These reverse channels are the ones scanned by "antivirus" type "cell checkers". ESN/MINs for fraudulent use. Note that one hacker seems to think one can use a 280 Unicomputer/Computer on the ground software of some cellulars. (The shame of it all!) Other cellulars use different base common

temperatures of which computers/computerers are really unaware.

Now that you have the theory behind cellular phreaking, I'll continue on to some background and how you do it.

Cellular Overview

A cell system divides the service area into small low power areas called cells. A cell system has a continuous pattern of these cells, each having a 1 to 4 mile range (usually 2-30 miles). Within each cell is a base station which contains several transmitters and control equipment for the channels assigned to that cell. These are all connected to an MTSSO which is in turn connected to a CO (Central Office) switch. Each cell operates on an assigned channel and may have numerous paging and voice channels assigned to it.

The cellular radio frequencies have been divided by the FCC into several bands to allow non-traffic systems to co-exist and compete in the same area. Originally there were 666 channels, but that was expanded to 832 in 1988, and with NAMPS to 2412 in 1991.

Band A

Non-Broadcast

Face channels: 691-812

Control channels: 315-532

Reverse channels: 170-387

Band B

Broadcast

Face channels: 255-466

Control channels: 444-454

Reverse channels: 170-387

Control channels are used to send and receive only digital data between the cellular phone and the cell base station. The 21 control channels in each band may be dedicated to two different applications: access and paging channels.

The data on the forward control channels provides such info as the system identification number and range of channels to scan to find the access and paging channels. Access channels are used to respond to a page or to originate a call. The system and the cell phone will use access channels where 2-way data transfer occurs to determine the initial voice channel. Paging channels, if used, are the holding place for an idle cell phone. When the call is received at the central controller for a cellular phone, the paging signaling will start on a paging channel. In many systems, both access channel functions will be served by the same access channel for a particular cell. Multiple paging channels are only used in high density areas.

NAMPS Number Assignment Module. This is a memory component (usually an EPROM) that contains a cell phone's ESN/MIN/SCM, lock code, etc. Some phones can be re-programmed via the handset so you can change their MIN several times

(usually the phone's software locks it up after three to 20 MIN changes). This feature was used to decrease cell sites when roaming. Newer cell site software is quickly making this trick obsolete (the problem being that one cannot change the ESN via NAMPS handset programming unless one re-writes the EPROM software).

One must know, there is no distributed intelligence in the first generation of cellular systems. All these cellular base stations there is little or no monitoring equipment of any kind.

There are a mix of 3 watt, 1.2 watt, and 600 milliwatt cellular phones in use today. (Keep this in mind as the power of a cellular phone is stored in ROM and transmitted along with the ESN/MIN and the coding may be correct.) 3 watt = mobile, 1.6 watt = unattended, 600 milliwatt = portables.

IS-41: The current standard that will let cell switches from different vendors hand-off and deliver calls and transfer subscriber data profiles (current version is Revision B). This document contains tons of useful info and can be found at public libraries, etc. IS-41 rev B is published by AT&T, although the original rev 0 published in 1987 or rev A published in 1989 may come in handy when dealing with old-fashioned MTSSO's (Mobile Telephone Switching Offices) that haven't upgraded yet.

MTSSO's typically use fiber optic links to cell sites or an 18 gbit microwave link. A cell site in turn then probably uses a 38 gbit microwave link to a microwave transmitter. TDMA and CDMA are both systems to become the industry standard.

SS7: As soon as a user turns on a cell phone the MIN/ESN for that phone will be carried as an SS7 network message in a database, known as the home location register (HLR) within the user's home carrier system. The HLR will provide information for validation as well as customer profile info for advanced features such as voice mail. This info will then be relayed to a second database, the visitor location register, maintained by the carrier that is hosting the roaming call. They hope to reduce fraud by checking the ESN with real time validation on a per call basis. The current system is unable to detect fraud until after a caller has made his first call. (This system simply uses a customer's calling profile to detect an unusual calling pattern.) Those changing ESN/MIN's often cannot be detected!

Cell relay uses fixed length packets - 48 bytes for the payload and five bytes for the header. Two existing cell relay standards are IEEE 802.6 (DDQPS) and ATM. They differ only in context of the header.

Each cellular has two channels associated with it, the transmit (REVERSE) and the receive (FORWARD).

Reverse freqs: 824-848 mhz
Forward freqs: 899-924 mhz
Control channel dispatch: 806-809.7 mhz and 851-854.75 mhz
Trunked dispatch: 809.75-824 mhz and 851-75

869 mhz
(General reserve 848-851 mhz, 892-902 mhz, and 928-947 mhz)
Channel spacing: 30 mhz AMPS or 10 mhz NAMPS

Reverse Channel Info

Voice channels are used primarily for conversation, with signaling used with quick dial bursts or tones to handle cell to cell handoffs, setup power control of the cellular radio phone, and special control features. Forward data from the cell site and reverse data from the cell phone are sent using frequency shift keying. The data is formatted into groups of words with a discrete binary preamble that allows the receiver to synchronize to the incoming data. With AMPS, various tones are used. With NAMPS, the data and tones have been replaced by sub-audible digital equivalents that ride under the audio. (See EIA - 553 for AMPS or Motorola's NAMPS air interface specification for NAMPS.)

Signaling Tone (ST) and Digital ST (DST)

In AMPS, the signaling tone is a 30 KHz signal used by the mobile on the REVERSE channel (REV) to signal activities or to acknowledge commands from the cell site, including handoffs, alert orders, call terminations, and switchback operations. Various tone lengths are used on different ST activities. On NAMPS channels ST is replaced by a digital equivalent called Digital ST (DST), which is the complement of the assigned DSAT. The 10 KHz signal is sent for 50 milliseconds.

SAT (Superservice Audio Tone) and DSAT (Digital SAT)

The superservice audio tone (SAT) is one of three frequencies:

SAT 10: 9270 Hz; SAT 16: 6000 Hz; SAT 21: 6030 Hz (by type or range 2 Hz in these three frequencies)

These are used in AMPS signaling. On NAMPS channels SAT is replaced by one of seven sub-audible digital equivalents or voice-coded DSAT.

SAT or DSAT is generated by the cell site, checked for frequency or accuracy by the cell phone, then retransmitted back to the cell site on the REVERSE voice channel (REV). The cellular telephone uses (DSAT) to verify that it is tuned to the correct channel after a new voice channel assignment. When the CO signals the mobile regarding the new voice channel, it also tells the mobile of the SAT freq of the (DSAT) vector to expect on the new channel. The returned (DSAT) is used at the cell site to verify the presence of the telephone's signal on the designated frequency.

DSAT - 700 Hz deviation

Data: Transmitted at 10 KHz/sec. Used for sending system orders and mobile identification. In cellular the data is transmitted as Frequency Key Signaling, where the carrier is shifted 8 KHz to AMPS (700 Hz in NAMPS) to represent a high high (or 1), and the carrier is shifted low 8 KHz in AMPS (700 Hz in NAMPS) to represent a logic low (or 0).

Cellular Phone Frequency and Cell Construction	Cellular Phone Frequency and Cell Construction
Cellular 1: 1500-1550 MHz, B, 3000-3050 MHz, C, 3050-3100 MHz, D, 3100-3150 MHz, E, 3150-3200 MHz, F, 3200-3250 MHz, G, 3250-3300 MHz, H, 3300-3350 MHz, I, 3350-3400 MHz, J, 3400-3450 MHz, K, 3450-3500 MHz, L, 3500-3550 MHz, M, 3550-3600 MHz, N, 3600-3650 MHz, O, 3650-3700 MHz, P, 3700-3750 MHz, Q, 3750-3800 MHz, R, 3800-3850 MHz, S, 3850-3900 MHz, T, 3900-3950 MHz, U, 3950-4000 MHz, V, 4000-4050 MHz, W, 4050-4100 MHz, X, 4100-4150 MHz, Y, 4150-4200 MHz, Z, 4200-4250 MHz, AA, 4250-4300 MHz, AB, 4300-4350 MHz, AC, 4350-4400 MHz, AD, 4400-4450 MHz, AE, 4450-4500 MHz, AF, 4500-4550 MHz, AG, 4550-4600 MHz, AH, 4600-4650 MHz, AI, 4650-4700 MHz, AJ, 4700-4750 MHz, AK, 4750-4800 MHz, AL, 4800-4850 MHz, AM, 4850-4900 MHz, AN, 4900-4950 MHz, AO, 4950-5000 MHz, AP, 5000-5050 MHz, AQ, 5050-5100 MHz, AR, 5100-5150 MHz, AS, 5150-5200 MHz, AT, 5200-5250 MHz, AU, 5250-5300 MHz, AV, 5300-5350 MHz, AW, 5350-5400 MHz, AX, 5400-5450 MHz, AY, 5450-5500 MHz, AZ, 5500-5550 MHz, BA, 5550-5600 MHz, BB, 5600-5650 MHz, BC, 5650-5700 MHz, BD, 5700-5750 MHz, BE, 5750-5800 MHz, BF, 5800-5850 MHz, BG, 5850-5900 MHz, BH, 5900-5950 MHz, BI, 5950-6000 MHz, BJ, 6000-6050 MHz, BK, 6050-6100 MHz, BL, 6100-6150 MHz, BM, 6150-6200 MHz, BN, 6200-6250 MHz, BO, 6250-6300 MHz, BP, 6300-6350 MHz, BQ, 6350-6400 MHz, BR, 6400-6450 MHz, BS, 6450-6500 MHz, BT, 6500-6550 MHz, BU, 6550-6600 MHz, BV, 6600-6650 MHz, BV, 6650-6700 MHz, BW, 6700-6750 MHz, BX, 6750-6800 MHz, BY, 6800-6850 MHz, BZ, 6850-6900 MHz, CA, 6900-6950 MHz, CB, 6950-7000 MHz, CC, 7000-7050 MHz, CD, 7050-7100 MHz, CE, 7100-7150 MHz, CF, 7150-7200 MHz, CG, 7200-7250 MHz, CH, 7250-7300 MHz, CI, 7300-7350 MHz, CJ, 7350-7400 MHz, CK, 7400-7450 MHz, CL, 7450-7500 MHz, CM, 7500-7550 MHz, CN, 7550-7600 MHz, CO, 7600-7650 MHz, CP, 7650-7700 MHz, CQ, 7700-7750 MHz, CR, 7750-7800 MHz, CS, 7800-7850 MHz, CT, 7850-7900 MHz, CU, 7900-7950 MHz, CV, 7950-8000 MHz, CW, 8000-8050 MHz, CX, 8050-8100 MHz, CY, 8100-8150 MHz, CZ, 8150-8200 MHz, DA, 8200-8250 MHz, DB, 8250-8300 MHz, DC, 8300-8350 MHz, DD, 8350-8400 MHz, DE, 8400-8450 MHz, DF, 8450-8500 MHz, DG, 8500-8550 MHz, DH, 8550-8600 MHz, DI, 8600-8650 MHz, DJ, 8650-8700 MHz, DK, 8700-8750 MHz, DL, 8750-8800 MHz, DM, 8800-8850 MHz, DN, 8850-8900 MHz, DO, 8900-8950 MHz, DP, 8950-9000 MHz, DQ, 9000-9050 MHz, DR, 9050-9100 MHz, DS, 9100-9150 MHz, DT, 9150-9200 MHz, DU, 9200-9250 MHz, DV, 9250-9300 MHz, DV, 9300-9350 MHz, DW, 9350-9400 MHz, DX, 9400-9450 MHz, DY, 9450-9500 MHz, DZ, 9500-9550 MHz, EA, 9550-9600 MHz, EB, 9600-9650 MHz, EC, 9650-9700 MHz, ED, 9700-9750 MHz, EE, 9750-9800 MHz, EF, 9800-9850 MHz, EG, 9850-9900 MHz, EH, 9900-9950 MHz, EI, 9950-10000 MHz, EJ, 10000-10050 MHz, EK, 10050-10100 MHz, EL, 10100-10150 MHz, EM, 10150-10200 MHz, EN, 10200-10250 MHz, EO, 10250-10300 MHz, EP, 10300-10350 MHz, EQ, 10350-10400 MHz, ER, 10400-10450 MHz, ES, 10450-10500 MHz, ET, 10500-10550 MHz, EU, 10550-10600 MHz, EV, 10600-10650 MHz, EV, 10650-10700 MHz, EW, 10700-10750 MHz, EX, 10750-10800 MHz, EY, 10800-10850 MHz, EZ, 10850-10900 MHz, FA, 10900-10950 MHz, FB, 10950-11000 MHz, FC, 11000-11050 MHz, FD, 11050-11100 MHz, FE, 11100-11150 MHz, FF, 11150-11200 MHz, FG, 11200-11250 MHz, FH, 11250-11300 MHz, FI, 11300-11350 MHz, FJ, 11350-11400 MHz, FK, 11400-11450 MHz, FL, 11450-11500 MHz, FM, 11500-11550 MHz, FN, 11550-11600 MHz, FO, 11600-11650 MHz, FP, 11650-11700 MHz, FQ, 11700-11750 MHz, FR, 11750-11800 MHz, FS, 11800-11850 MHz, FT, 11850-11900 MHz, FU, 11900-11950 MHz, FV, 11950-12000 MHz, FW, 12000-12050 MHz, FX, 12050-12100 MHz, FY, 12100-12150 MHz, FZ, 12150-12200 MHz, GA, 12200-12250 MHz, GB, 12250-12300 MHz, GC, 12300-12350 MHz, GD, 12350-12400 MHz, GE, 12400-12450 MHz, GF, 12450-12500 MHz, GH, 12500-12550 MHz, GI, 12550-12600 MHz, GJ, 12600-12650 MHz, GK, 12650-12700 MHz, GL, 12700-12750 MHz, GM, 12750-12800 MHz, GN, 12800-12850 MHz, GO, 12850-12900 MHz, GP, 12900-12950 MHz, GQ, 12950-13000 MHz, GR, 13000-13050 MHz, GS, 13050-13100 MHz, GT, 13100-13150 MHz, GU, 13150-13200 MHz, GV, 13200-13250 MHz, GV, 13250-13300 MHz, GW, 13300-13350 MHz, GX, 13350-13400 MHz, GY, 13400-13450 MHz, GZ, 13450-13500 MHz, HA, 13500-13550 MHz, HB, 13550-13600 MHz, HC, 13600-13650 MHz, HD, 13650-13700 MHz, HE, 13700-13750 MHz, HF, 13750-13800 MHz, HG, 13800-13850 MHz, HI, 13850-13900 MHz, HJ, 13900-13950 MHz, HK, 13950-14000 MHz, HL, 14000-14050 MHz, HM, 14050-14100 MHz, HN, 14100-14150 MHz, HO, 14150-14200 MHz, HP, 14200-14250 MHz, HQ, 14250-14300 MHz, HR, 14300-14350 MHz, HS, 14350-14400 MHz, HT, 14400-14450 MHz, HU, 14450-14500 MHz, HV, 14500-14550 MHz, HV, 14550-14600 MHz, HW, 14600-14650 MHz, HX, 14650-14700 MHz, HY, 14700-14750 MHz, HZ, 14750-14800 MHz, IA, 14800-14850 MHz, IB, 14850-14900 MHz, IC, 14900-14950 MHz, ID, 14950-15000 MHz, IE, 15000-15050 MHz, IF, 15050-15100 MHz, IG, 15100-15150 MHz, IH, 15150-15200 MHz, II, 15200-15250 MHz, IJ, 15250-15300 MHz, IK, 15300-15350 MHz, IL, 15350-15400 MHz, IM, 15400-15450 MHz, IN, 15450-15500 MHz, IO, 15500-15550 MHz, IP, 15550-15600 MHz, IQ, 15600-15650 MHz, IR, 15650-15700 MHz, IS, 15700-15750 MHz, IT, 15750-15800 MHz, IU, 15800-15850 MHz, IV, 15850-15900 MHz, IV, 15900-15950 MHz, IW, 15950-16000 MHz, IX, 16000-16050 MHz, IY, 16050-16100 MHz, IZ, 16100-16150 MHz, JA, 16150-16200 MHz, JB, 16200-16250 MHz, JC, 16250-16300 MHz, JD, 16300-16350 MHz, JE, 16350-16400 MHz, JF, 16400-16450 MHz, JG, 16450-16500 MHz, JH, 16500-16550 MHz, JI, 16550-16600 MHz, JJ, 16600-16650 MHz, JJ, 16650-16700 MHz, JK, 16700-16750 MHz, JL, 16750-16800 MHz, JM, 16800-16850 MHz, JN, 16850-16900 MHz, JO, 16900-16950 MHz, JP, 16950-17000 MHz, JQ, 17000-17050 MHz, JR, 17050-17100 MHz, JS, 17100-17150 MHz, JT, 17150-17200 MHz, JU, 17200-17250 MHz, JV, 17250-17300 MHz, JV, 17300-17350 MHz, JW, 17350-17400 MHz, JX, 17400-17450 MHz, JY, 17450-17500 MHz, JZ, 17500-17550 MHz, KA, 17550-17600 MHz, KB, 17600-17650 MHz, KC, 17650-17700 MHz, KD, 17700-17750 MHz, KE, 17750-17800 MHz, KF, 17800-17850 MHz, KG, 17850-17900 MHz, KH, 17900-17950 MHz, KI, 17950-18000 MHz, KJ, 18000-18050 MHz, KK, 18050-18100 MHz, KL, 18100-18150 MHz, KM, 18150-18200 MHz, KN, 18200-18250 MHz, KO, 18250-18300 MHz, KP, 18300-18350 MHz, KQ, 18350-18400 MHz, KR, 18400-18450 MHz, KS, 18450-18500 MHz, KT, 18500-18550 MHz, KU, 18550-18600 MHz, KV, 18600-18650 MHz, KV, 18650-18700 MHz, KW, 18700-18750 MHz, KX, 18750-18800 MHz, KY, 18800-18850 MHz, KZ, 18850-18900 MHz, LA, 18900-18950 MHz, LB, 18950-19000 MHz, LC, 19000-19050 MHz, LD, 19050-19100 MHz, LE, 19100-19150 MHz, LF, 19150-19200 MHz, LG, 19200-19250 MHz, LH, 19250-19300 MHz, LI, 19300-19350 MHz, LJ, 19350-19400 MHz, LK, 19400-19450 MHz, LL, 19450-19500 MHz, LM, 19500-19550 MHz, LN, 19550-19600 MHz, LO, 19600-19650 MHz, LP, 19650-19700 MHz, LQ, 19700-19750 MHz, LR, 19750-19800 MHz, LS, 19800-19850 MHz, LT, 19850-19900 MHz, LU, 19900-19950 MHz, LV, 19950-20000 MHz, LV, 19950-20000 MHz, LW, 20000-20050 MHz, LX, 20050-20100 MHz, LY, 20100-20150 MHz, LZ, 20150-20200 MHz, MA, 20200-20250 MHz, MB, 20250-20300 MHz, MC, 20300-20350 MHz, MD, 20350-20400 MHz, ME, 20400-20450 MHz, MF, 20450-20500 MHz, MG, 20500-20550 MHz, MH, 20550-20600 MHz, MI, 20600-20650 MHz, MJ, 20650-20700 MHz, MJ, 20700-20750 MHz, MK, 20750-20800 MHz, ML, 20800-20850 MHz, MN, 20850-20900 MHz, MO, 20900-20950 MHz, MP, 20950-21000 MHz, MQ, 21000-21050 MHz, MR, 21050-21100 MHz, MS, 21100-21150 MHz, MT, 21150-21200 MHz, MU, 21200-21250 MHz, MV, 21250-21300 MHz, MV, 21300-21350 MHz, MW, 21350-21400 MHz, MX, 21400-21450 MHz, MY, 21450-21500 MHz, MZ, 21500-21550 MHz, NA, 21550-21600 MHz, NB, 21600-21650 MHz, NC, 21650-21700 MHz, ND, 21700-21750 MHz, NE, 21750-21800 MHz, NF, 21800-21850 MHz, NG, 21850-21900 MHz, NH, 21900-21950 MHz, NI, 21950-22000 MHz, NJ, 22000-22050 MHz, NJ, 22050-22100 MHz, NK, 22100-22150 MHz, NL, 22150-22200 MHz, NM, 22200-22250 MHz, NN, 22250-22300 MHz, NO, 22300-22350 MHz, NP, 22350-22400 MHz, NQ, 22400-22450 MHz, NR, 22450-22500 MHz, NS, 22500-22550 MHz, NT, 22550-22600 MHz, NU, 22600-22650 MHz, NV, 22650-22700 MHz, NV, 22700-22750 MHz, NW, 22750-22800 MHz, NX, 22800-22850 MHz, NY, 22850-22900 MHz, NY, 22900-22950 MHz, NZ, 22950-23000 MHz, OA, 23000-23050 MHz, OB, 23050-23100 MHz, OC, 23100-23150 MHz, OD, 23150-23200 MHz, OE, 23200-23250 MHz, OF, 23250-23300 MHz, OG, 23300-23350 MHz, OH, 23350-23400 MHz, OI, 23400-23450 MHz, OJ, 23450-23500 MHz, OJ, 23500-23550 MHz, OK, 23550-23600 MHz, OL, 23600-23650 MHz, OM, 23650-23700 MHz, ON, 23700-23750 MHz, OO, 23750-23800 MHz, OP, 23800-23850 MHz, OP, 23850-23900 MHz, OQ, 23900-23950 MHz, OR, 23950-24000 MHz, OS, 24000-24050 MHz, OT, 24050-24100 MHz, OU, 24100-24150 MHz, OV, 24150-24200 MHz, OV, 24200-24250 MHz, OW, 24250-24300 MHz, OX, 24300-24350 MHz, OY, 24350-24400 MHz, OZ, 24400-24450 MHz, PA, 24450-24500 MHz, PB, 24500-24550 MHz, PC, 24550-24600 MHz, PD, 24600-24650 MHz, PE, 24650-24700 MHz, PF, 24700-24750 MHz, PG, 24750-24800 MHz, PH, 24800-24850 MHz, PI, 24850-24900 MHz, PJ, 24900-24950 MHz, PJ, 24950-25000 MHz, PK, 25000-25050 MHz, PL, 25050-25100 MHz, PM, 25100-25150 MHz, PN, 25150-25200 MHz, PO, 25200-25250 MHz, PP, 25250-25300 MHz, PP, 25300-25350 MHz, PQ, 25350-25400 MHz, PR, 25400-25450 MHz, PS, 25450-25500 MHz, PT, 25500-25550 MHz, PU, 25550-25600 MHz, PV, 25600-25650 MHz, PV, 25650-25700 MHz, PW, 25700-25750 MHz, PX, 25750-25800 MHz, PY, 25800-25850 MHz, PZ, 25850-25900 MHz, QA, 25900-25950 MHz, QB, 25950-26000 MHz, QC, 26000-26050 MHz, QD, 26050-26100 MHz, QE, 26100-26150 MHz, QF, 26150-26200 MHz, QG, 26200-26250 MHz, QH, 26250-26300 MHz, QI, 26300-26350 MHz, QJ, 26350-26400 MHz, QJ, 26400-26450 MHz, QK, 26450-26500 MHz, QL, 26500-26550 MHz, QM, 26550-26600 MHz, QN, 26600-26650 MHz, QO, 26650-26700 MHz, QP, 26700-26750 MHz, QP, 26750-26800 MHz, QQ, 26800-26850 MHz, QR, 26850-26900 MHz, QS, 26900-26950 MHz, QT, 26950-27000 MHz, QU, 27000-27050 MHz, QV, 27050-27100 MHz, QV, 27100-27150 MHz, QW, 27150-27200 MHz, QX, 27200-27250 MHz, QY, 27250-27300 MHz, QZ, 27300-27350 MHz, RA, 27350-27400 MHz, RB, 27400-27450 MHz, RC, 27450-27500 MHz, RD, 27500-27550 MHz, RE, 27550-27600 MHz, RF, 27600-27650 MHz, RG, 27650-27700 MHz, RH, 27700-27750 MHz, RI, 27750-27800 MHz, RJ, 27800-27850 MHz, RJ, 27850-27900 MHz, RK, 27900-27950 MHz, RL, 27950-28000 MHz, RM, 28000-28050 MHz, RN, 28050-28100 MHz, RO, 28100-28150 MHz, RP, 28150-28200 MHz, RQ, 28200-28250 MHz, RR, 28250-28300 MHz, RS, 28300-28350 MHz, RT, 28350-28400 MHz, RU, 28400-28450 MHz, RV, 28450-28500 MHz, RV, 28500-28550 MHz, RW, 28550-28600 MHz, RX, 28600-28650 MHz, RY, 28650-28700 MHz, RZ, 28700-28750 MHz, SA, 28750-28800 MHz, SB, 28800-28850 MHz, SC, 28850-28900 MHz, SD, 28900-28950 MHz, SE, 28950-29000 MHz, SF, 29000-29050 MHz, SG, 29050-29100 MHz, SH, 29100-29150 MHz, SI, 29150-29200 MHz, SJ, 29200-29250 MHz, SJ, 29250-29300 MHz, SK, 29300-29350 MHz, SL, 29350-29400 MHz, SM, 29400-29450 MHz, SN, 29450-29500 MHz, SO, 29500-29550 MHz, SP, 29550-29600 MHz, SP, 29600-29650 MHz, SQ, 29650-29700 MHz, SR, 29700-29750 MHz, SS, 29750-29800 MHz, ST, 29800-29850 MHz, SU, 29850-29900 MHz, SV, 29900-29950 MHz, SV, 29950-30000 MHz, SW, 30000-30050 MHz, SX, 30050-30100 MHz, SY, 30100-30150 MHz, SZ, 30150-30200 MHz, TA, 30200-30250 MHz, TB, 30250-30300 MHz, TC, 30300-30350 MHz, TD, 30350-30400 MHz, TE, 30400-30450 MHz, TF, 30450-30500 MHz, TG, 30500-30550 MHz, TH, 30550-30600 MHz, TI, 30600-30650 MHz, TJ, 30650-30700 MHz, TJ, 30700-30750 MHz, TK, 30750-30800 MHz, TL, 30800-30850 MHz, TM, 30850-30900 MHz, TN, 30900-30950 MHz, TO, 30950-31000 MHz, TP, 31000-31050 MHz, TP, 31050-31100 MHz, TQ, 31100-31150 MHz, TR, 31150-31200 MHz, TS, 31200-31250 MHz, TU, 31250-31300 MHz, TV, 31300-31350 MHz, TV, 31350-31400 MHz, TW, 31400-31450 MHz, TX, 31450-31500 MHz, TY, 31500-31550 MHz, TZ, 31550-31600 MHz, UA, 31600-31650 MHz, UB, 31650-31700 MHz, UC, 31700-31750 MHz, UD, 31750-31800 MHz, UE, 31800-31850 MHz, UF, 31850-31900 MHz, UG, 31900-31950 MHz, UH, 31950-32000 MHz, UI, 32000-32050 MHz, UJ, 32050-32100 MHz, UJ, 32100-32150 MHz, UK, 32150-32200 MHz, UL, 32200-32250 MHz, UM, 32250-32300 MHz, UN, 32300-32350 MHz, UO, 32350-32400 MHz, UP, 32400-32450 MHz, UP, 32450-32500 MHz, UQ, 32500-32550 MHz, UR, 32550-32600 MHz, US, 32600-32650 MHz, UT, 32650-32700 MHz, UV, 32700-32750 MHz, UV, 32750-32800 MHz, UW, 32800-32850 MHz, UX, 32850-32900 MHz, UY, 32900-32950 MHz, UZ, 32950-33000 MHz, VA, 33000-33050 MHz, VB, 33050-33100 MHz, VC, 33100-33150 MHz, VD, 33150-33200 MHz, VE, 33200-33250 MHz, VF, 33250-33300 MHz, VG, 33300-33350 MHz, VH, 33350-33400 MHz, VI, 33400-33450 MHz, VJ, 33450-33500 MHz, VJ, 33500-33550 MHz, VK, 33550-33600 MHz, VL, 33600-33650 MHz, VM, 33650-33700 MHz, VN, 33700-33750 MHz, VO, 33750-33800 MHz, VP, 33800-33850 MHz, VP, 33850-33900 MHz, VQ, 33900-33950 MHz, VR, 33950-34000 MHz, VS, 34000-34050 MHz, VT, 34050-34100 MHz, VU, 34100-34150 MHz, VU, 34150-34200 MHz, VW, 34200-34250 MHz, VX, 34250-34300 MHz, VY, 34300-34350 MHz, VZ, 34350-34400 MHz, WA, 34400-34450 MHz, WB, 34450-34500 MHz, WC, 34500-34550 MHz, WD, 34550-34600 MHz, WE, 34600-34650 MHz, WF, 34650-34700 MHz, WG, 34700-34750 MHz, WH, 34750-34800 MHz, WI, 34800-34850 MHz, WJ, 34850-34900 MHz, WJ, 34900-34950 MHz, WK, 34950-35000 MHz, WL, 35000-35050 MHz, WM, 35050-35100 MHz, WN, 35100-35150 MHz, WO, 35150-35200 MHz, WP, 35200-35250 MHz, WP, 35250-35300 MHz, WQ, 35300-35350 MHz, WR, 35350-35400 MHz, WS, 35400-35450 MHz, WT, 35450-35500 MHz, WU, 35500-35550 MHz, WV, 35550-35600 MHz, WV, 35600-35650 MHz, WX, 35650-35700 MHz, WY, 35700-35750 MHz, WZ, 35750-35800 MHz, XA, 35800-35850 MHz, XB, 35850-35900 MHz, XC, 35900-35950 MHz, XD, 35950-36000 MHz, XE, 36000-36050 MHz, XF, 36050-36100 MHz, XG, 36100-36150 MHz, XH, 36150-36200 MHz, XI, 36200-36250 MHz, XJ, 36250-36300 MHz, XJ, 36300-36350 MHz, XK, 36350-36400 MHz, XL, 36400-36450 MHz, XM, 36450-36500 MHz, XN, 36500-36550 MHz, XO, 36550-36600 MHz, XP, 36600-36650 MHz, XP, 36650-36700 MHz, XQ, 36700-36750 MHz, XR, 36750-36800 MHz, XS, 36800-36850 MHz, XT, 36850-36900 MHz, XU, 36900-36950 MHz, XV, 36950-37000 MHz, XV, 37000-37050 MHz, XW, 37050-37100 MHz, XY, 37100-37150 MHz, XZ, 37150-37200 MHz, YA, 37200-37250 MHz, YB, 37250-37300 MHz, YC, 37300-37350 MHz, YD, 37350-37400 MHz, YE, 37400-37450 MHz, YF, 37450-37500 MHz, YG, 37500-37550 MHz, YH, 37550-37600 MHz, YI, 37600-37650 MHz, YJ, 37650-37700 MHz, YJ, 37700-37750 MHz, YK, 37750-37800 MHz, YL, 37800-37850 MHz, YM, 37850-37900 MHz, YN, 37900-37950 MHz, YO, 37950-38000 MHz, YP, 38000-38050 MHz, YP, 38050-38100 MHz, YQ, 38100-38150 MHz, YR, 38150-38200 MHz, YS, 38200-38250 MHz, YT, 38250-38300 MHz, YU, 38300-38350 MHz, YV, 38350-38400 MHz, YV, 38400-38450 MHz, YW, 38450-38500 MHz, YX, 38500-38550 MHz, YY, 38550-38600 MHz, YZ, 38600-38650 MHz, ZA, 38650-38700 MHz, ZB, 38700-38750 MHz, ZC, 38750-38800 MHz, ZD, 38800-38850 MHz, ZE, 38850-38900 MHz, ZF, 38900-38950 MHz, ZG, 38950-39000 MHz, ZH, 39000-39050 MHz, ZI, 39050-39100 MHz, ZJ, 39100-39150 MHz, ZJ, 39150-39200 MHz, ZK, 39200-39250 MHz, ZL, 39250-39300 MHz, ZM, 39300-39350 MHz, ZN, 39350-39400 MHz, ZO, 39400-39450 MHz, ZP, 39450-39500 MHz, ZP, 39500-39550 MHz, ZQ, 39550-39600 MHz, ZR, 39600-39650 MHz, ZS, 39650-39700 MHz, ZT, 39700-39750 MHz, ZU, 39750-39800 MHz, ZV, 39800-39850 MHz, ZV, 39850-39900 MHz, ZW, 39900-39950 MHz, ZX, 39950-40000 MHz, ZY, 40000-40050 MHz, ZZ, 40050-40100 MHz, AA, 40100-40150 MHz, AB, 40150-40200 MHz, AC, 40200-40250 MHz, AD, 40250-40300 MHz, AE, 40300-40350 MHz, AF, 40350-40400 MHz, AG, 40400-40450 MHz, AH, 40450-40500 MHz, AI, 40500-40550 MHz, AJ, 40550-40600 MHz, AJ, 40600-40650 MHz, AK, 40650-40700 MHz, AL, 40700-40750 MHz, AM, 40750-40800 MHz, AN, 40800-40850 MHz, AO, 40850-40900 MHz, AP, 40900-40950 MHz, AP, 40950-41000 MHz, AQ, 41000-41050 MHz, AR, 41050-41100 MHz, AS, 41100-41150 MHz, AT, 41150-41200 MHz, AU, 41200-41250 MHz, AV, 41250-41300 MHz, AV, 41300-41350 MHz, AW, 41350-41400 MHz, AX, 41400-41450 MHz, AY, 41450-41500 MHz, AZ, 41500-41550 MHz, BA, 41550-41600 MHz, BB, 41600-41650 MHz, BC, 41650-41700 MHz, BD, 41700-41750 MHz	

TROUBLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE

by Charlie Zee

Tuesday, January 26, the White House phone number 456-1414 is busy. In fact, all the White House numbers seem to be busy. And so it's been for the past few days at the White House. There's no way to get through. Is there something wrong with the White House phones? No, said Robert Calhoun, assistant to Delano Lewis, president of C&P Telephone. "We checked on it yesterday. The actual equipment is working fine. There is just a tremendous amount of calls coming into the White House switchboard as well as the Capitol. It appears to me personally that this is something new. That people want to take an interest in their government. They want to speak to the president directly."

Perhaps. But this has been going on for days. Old-timers have never seen anything like it. There were some lines during the Watergate stories that the lines would get busy, and the day after Reagan was shot. But hour after hour? Day after day? The White House phone system is designed to handle demands comparable to those of, say, Desert Storm. It has its own dedicated central office-size switching center, said Michael Daley, a spokesman for C&P. The telephone company's normal central offices in Washington usually route traffic for dozens of blocks of office buildings.

As far as who's answering those many lines, the White House won't say. Alex Nagy, director of telephone services (called at the same number he had during the Bush administration), would not even come

to the phone. His assistant said: "We do not give out any details."

However, one former White House staffer said there are perhaps a half dozen operators usually working at any one time. He said they "are the top of their profession and career civil servants."

It's definitely not business as usual at the White House according to Joel Garreau of the Washington Post. High and low officials throughout town, supplicants and power brokers, can't get through. At a key moment in the recent confirmation hearings for Attorney General-designate Zoe Baird, Senator Joseph Biden got so frustrated trying to get through to the president that he told aides if he didn't hear from Bill Clinton in five minutes, he was going out to the floor to flatly announce his opposition. That broke through the clutter. Somehow Clinton got back to him instantly.

Is it easier for the Russians? With the hot line and all? No, said embassy press counselor Vladimir Derbenav at 347-1347. The White House's direct connection is only to Moscow, not the embassy.

What about the Iraqis? How would they get through to the president? Fire a few rounds at the Kittyhawk? A hurried call to their embassy at 483-7500... No, we have not been having any particular problem with the White House phones, came the answer. That's because we can't call the White House much. Our problem is with the United Nations.

And bypassing the White House switchboard and trying to reach somebody's direct line is no snap. Call

the old number for the press office listed in the National Journal's Capitol Source directory, and the call is answered by the office of the chief of staff. Ask them if anybody is keeping track of how many incoming calls there have been, and you are directed to the staff secretariat. Ask who is the head of that, and the person at the office of the chief of staff does not know. There's no new White House phone directory out yet even for people inside the building. Track is being kept on the backs of envelopes; some numbers have changed. "We're working on hit-or-miss temporary listings. They're not complete," said one White House source.

On January 26, the telephonic gridlock had sloshed over into the Capitol Hill lines. The office of Senator Dan Coates (R-Ind.), a vocal opponent of Clinton's proposal to rescind the ban on homosexuals serving in the armed forces, numbers about 1,000 by Tuesday night - about 16 to 1 in favor of the ban, the Associated Press reported. The office of one prominent liberal senator said it received 500 to 700 calls, with a majority in favor of allowing homosexuals in the military, said an aide.

And the main Capitol Hill number, 224-3121, has remained busy. Could this all be people wound up in the gay issue? In fact, no, said one White House official when finally reached. "The switchboard is totally swamped, but the calls are running about 50-50," said the source. "Half concern the issue of gays in the military. But the other half is people who are perceiving waffles on campaign pledges. Clinton promised many things. And now people are worried that things are not going to turn out that way. People are more involved with this administration

than in the past. Even the [mechanized] comment line has never been like this. Everybody and their brother feels like they can call in, and right now, they are."

Then again, some of those calls are like the ones made to David Watkins. If anybody should know what's going on with the phones, he ought to be the one, seeing as how he's assistant to the president for the office of administration and management. And somebody had him listed at 456-6797.

That, in fact, turns out to be the office of the chief of staff, which could still make sense since that's who he works for, according to the table of organization handed out back in Little Rock. But no. The person who answered the phone at the office of the chief of staff said she did not have him on any of her lists. Nor did she know where he sat or what his phone number might be. In fact, she had never heard of him.

2600 NOW HAS A VOICE BBS THAT OPERATES EVERY NIGHT BEGINNING AT 11:00 PM EASTERN TIME. FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE MEETINGS, THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH. CALL 0700-751-2600 USING AT&T (IF YOU DON'T HAVE AT&T AS YOUR LONG DISTANCE COMPANY, PRECEDE THE ABOVE NUMBER WITH 10288). THE CALL COSTS 15 CENTS A MINUTE AND IT ALL GOES TO AT&T. YOU CAN ALSO LEAVE MESSAGES FOR 2600 WRITERS AND STAFF PEOPLE AROUND THE CLOCK.

beige box construction

by The Phoenix

Many tasks involving phone line work (such as installing a new extension, etc.) are much easier when you have a lineman's handset. Since a typical tone/pulse switchable model sells for about \$300 many people opt to build their own. Such an improvised handset is called a beige box. I will begin this article by repeating the instructions for making one. Next I will mention what the lineman's handset has that the generic box lacks and explain how to add these features.

To construct a basic beige box you need a one piece phone, preferably pulse/one switchable, a pair of alligator clips (one red and one black for the traditional look), and some tools (wire cutters, wire strippers, long nose pliers, P/C electrical tape, and a soldering iron). If the phone has no line cord you will need that too.

Cut the wire about four feet from the phone. Expose and strip the red and green wires. Connect the red alligator clip to the red wire and the black clip to the green wire. For a good connection the connections in electrical tape. It's that simple! In the off-hook state this device will behave just like a lineman's handset in the Talk mode.

Lineman's handsets have a Talk/Monitor switch instead of a switchhook. In the Monitor mode it

does not merely go on-hook like our beige box; it becomes a live tap. You can monitor everything which transpires on the line: an indispensable testing aid! If no phones are off-hook you will hear a background hum. If you pick up an extension you will hear the click and dial tone. It will not interfere with rotary dialing. If an incoming call arrives you hear the ringing signal (a loud purring).

To add this feature to your beige box you will need a .47 microfarad 250 V capacitor (non electrolytic), an audio matching transformer: eight ohms to 1000 ohms (Radio Shack Cat. #273-1380 will be used in the example), a DPDT switch, and some wire. Refer to Figure 1. Open the phone. Locate the point where the line cord enters. The red wire is the "ring" and is labeled "R" in the figure. The green ("tip") is labeled "T".

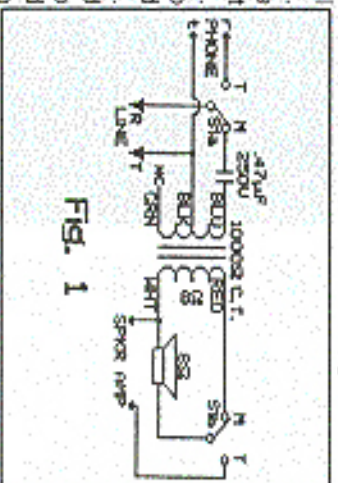


FIG. 1

Points "r" and "t" (lower case) are the points where these connect to the phone circuitry. Disconnect the Ring from the phone circuitry and connect it to the center of one pole of the switch. Run a line from one leg to the point where the Ring used to be. Connect the capacitor to the other leg. Solder the other capacitor lead to the transformer's blue lead. Connect the black lead to the tip. Ignore the green transformer lead (cut it off if it annoys you). The high impedance side is complete.

Now the eight ohm side. Find the earphone leads. (If the colors give any clue as to polarity put the switch on the positive one.) Connect the white wire from the transformer to one of the speaker wires. Disconnect the other speaker wire from

the main circuitry and solder it to the center of the free pole on the switch. Attach the red transformer lead to the leg on this pole which corresponds to the capacitor's position on the other pole, i.e. the Monitor position. The remaining switch terminal should be connected to the point from which the speaker wire was removed. With this modification the switchhook becomes somewhat pointless. The ringer can also be removed to make room for the transformer. Test the switch, mount it, and label T and M.

Many exciting new handsets of the tone/pulse switchable type have an extra switch: KEYPAD: IN/OUT. I assume this is to prevent accidentally dialing with your shoulder. This will not be discussed.

One last feature these new handsets have is a polarity test. This can be useful. Obtain one green and one red LED, an SPST momentary pushbutton, and a 1k ohm resistor. Refer to Figure 2. Connect the anode of the green LED to the cathode of the red one and to the resistor. Tie the cathode of the green to the anode of the red and connect that to the Tip. Connect the free end of the resistor to the button and the other side of the button to the Ring. Make sure that the cathode of the green is wired to the

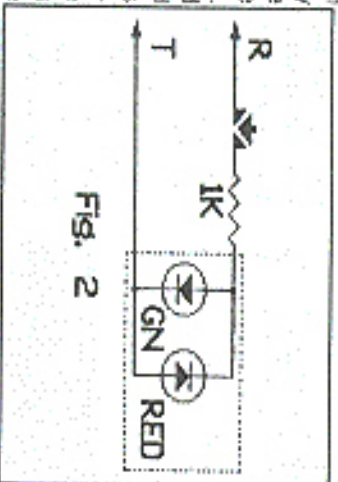


FIG. 2

black alligator clip. When the button is pressed the green LED will light if the red clip is on the positive (+) and the black clip on the negative (-). Note: The polarity test will create an off-hook status.

Thanks go to The External Monitor and The Terminal Man for their text file, Beige Box: Construction and Use dated Friday 17 May 1985, which detailed the construction reiterated in paragraph two. The type of phone tap I employed in adding the monitor mode was first brought to my attention in a text file by The Phantom (file/date unavailable). Note that if your speaker is not eight ohm you will have to use a different transformer; check with the outfit you get your .47 microfarad capacitor from. Lastly, Radio Shack no longer carries .47 microfarad capacitors. I wonder why? Other electronics distributors do. You may also find them in phone equipment isolating the ringer from the line.

2600 T-SHIRTS
White on Black, two-sided.
\$15 each, 2 for \$26.
2600 T-SHIRTS
PO Box 752
Middle Island, NY 11953
Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

DESCRAMBLING CABLE

by Dr. Clayton Phorester

If you were thinking about opening your cable box, don't! Most cable boxes have a small metal connector in the front right of the box. Once the lid is off, the connection is broken and a little battery inside remembers. I learned this the hard way with a Pioneer converter. Once the connection breaks, the little channel display on the box will go all screwy, and the only button that will work is the power button. If you *did* open the box, you would now notice that whenever you turn the TV on, it goes to a preset station and can't be changed. This station is usually the one that your box displays when you tune to a premium channel that you don't subscribe to. At any rate, cable companies will fine you around \$25 to reactivate your box.

And if they think you've tampered with it, that goes up to \$1000 (according to California law). All the cable company has to do is press a few keys on their cheap computers in their cozy little offices to get the box at your house back on line. (And you thought their regular rates were bad!)

If you did open it, maybe you could tell them that it fell on the floor during an earthquake or something. Or, you could do what I did. I told my cable operator that I was throwing away a TV, and was going to return my cable box. Well, I returned the box (after I closed it back up, of course) and about a month later I told my cable company that I got a new TV. I went

to the cable office and picked up a new box. Result: I got a perfectly good box, while some dumb Wilson got the old tampered- with one! And, of course, the Wilson won't know what the hell's going on when his box doesn't work, so he'll call the cable company and complain. The cable company (arrogant as they all are) will naturally assume that this person was trying to tamper with it, and they aren't gonna believe anything this guy is gonna tell them. *Ha! Ha! Ha!* (That's just my sick sense of humor.)

The point is: don't open the damn box! Inside there are a hundred little dials, screws, and thingamabobbers, but messing with them won't do you a hell of a lot of good if the box won't respond to any commands in the first place!

I just recently downloaded from a local BBS the following instructions to make a cable descrambler. It appears to have been uploaded in 1988 (how's that for sysop incompetence?) but it's worth a shot anyway. I'm almost certain that it won't work with a handful of cable systems because every one is different in its own little perverse kind of way. In Step 6, the author assumes that you will be using a cable box. I don't think that having a box is a requirement, because I don't have one, and my descrambler works just fine. On my cable system, boxes are an option for old TVs that don't go any higher than Channel 13, and TVs that you want to receive premium channels. So if you have one or not, don't

sweat it.

Enough talk! Whip out your wallet, your car keys, your soldering iron, and kick some cable company butt!

How To Build a Pay TV

Descrambler

Author Unknown

Materials Required

- 1 Radio Shack mini-box (RS #270-235)
- 1 1/4 watt resistor, 2.2k-2.4k ohm (RS #271-1325)
- 1 75pf, 100pf variable capacitor (hard to find)
- 2 F61a chassis-type coaxial connectors (RS #278-212)
- 12" No. 12 solid copper wire
- 12" RG59 coaxial cable

Instructions

1. Bare a length of No. 12 gauge solid copper wire and twist around a 3/8 inch nail or rod to form a coil of nine turns. Elongate coil to a length of 1 1/2 inches and form right angle bands on each end.
2. Solder the variable capacitor to the coil. It doesn't matter where you solder it; it still does the same job. The best place for it is in the center with the adjustment screw facing upward. Note: When it comes time to place coil in box, the coil must be grounded. This can be done by crazy-gluing a piece of rubber to the bottom of the box and securing the coil to it.
3. Tap coil at points 2 1/2 turns from ends of coil and solder to coaxial chassis connectors, bringing tap leads through holes in chassis box. Use as little wire as possible.
4. Solder resistor to center of coil and ground other end of resistor to chassis box, using solder lug and small screw.

5. Drill a 1/2 inch diameter hole in mini-box cover to permit adjustment of the variable capacitor from the outside.

6. Place device in line with existing cable on either side of the converter box and connect to a television set with the piece of RG59 coaxial cable. Set television to HBO channel.

7. Using a plastic screwdriver (or anything else non-metallic), adjust the variable capacitor until picture tunes in. Sit back, relax, and enjoy!

WRITE FOR 2600!

SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO:
2600 ARTICLE
SUBMISSIONS

PO BOX 99

MIDDLE ISLAND, NY 11953

INTERNET: 2600@well.sf.ca.us

FAX: (516) 751-2608

Remember, all writers get free subscriptions as well as free accounts on our voice mail system. To contact a 2600 writer, call 0700-751-2600. If you're not using AT&T, preface that with 10288. Use touch tones to track down the writer you're looking for. Overseas callers can call our office (516) 751-2600 and we'll forward the message.

Secret Service on Trial

IN FOCUS
KIMBER
MUMFORD

Day One

DATELINE: January 26, 1993 - the beginning of three straight days of Federal District Court in Austin, Texas. A rare frost lays on the ground and chill air descends on the "Scaphizope of Cyberpunk" as I ride down to Judge Sparks' courtroom. I have to thank my aunt at the Xerox shop - publicly. Even then some big Federal Marshal gun pulls me out of a precinct crowd to demand ID and lecture about "we expect to a courtroom." "It's a task performed with apprehension because today of all days, the Feds must take the stand - poised for a fall, so improbable as it may seem, at the hand of a mob of Freaks, "Computer Freaks." You can see it written in the eyes of each SS agent surrounding the courtroom. Today the Feds themselves are on trial; today they can no longer run and hide.

First we must wait for Judge Sparks to clear the docket. A jury deliberates its eventual "guilty" verdict on a guy who'd spent an 11-year-old in to conduct a bank heist, and Sparks prepares to send that guy on his third trip to camp. Outside the parties in our case pose frequently... Ed Cravens, vice president of EFF-Austin, recent UT/Austin Law School grad and a good friend, bounces off the walls in anticipation. This is Ed's first fall case; he's been a sissy for years, runs a popular BBS in Austin called "Bamboo Gardens," and grabbed a likely break by endorsing the local newspaper's night club law firm - George, Donaldson, and Fernald - about the secure ways of computing and BBS's. Shari Stank of the Electronic Frontier Foundation - major underwriter for the plaintiff's legal fees - works the field for her home office. Joe Abernathy of the *Austin Chronicle* and Village Voice - probably the first major newspaper columnist to cover computer underground issues on a regular basis - presses flesh in



Foley

an attempt to uncover dirt. Steve Jackson stands nervously, chaffing, trying to maintain a good humor among plaintiff grumpies which even includes his

room. A vague array of Fed spies and lawyers crowd the courtroom shadows, avoiding all contact. Lawyers from both sides huddle and haggle in a last minute settlement procedure which dies when the SS claims they "lack enough budget" to cover Steve Jackson Games' legal fees. Well, we'll see, eh?

Sparks delays the trial until after lunch. I overhear SS agents talk about reinsurance, so I tall them and sit down at the next table after they occur. They get up in disgust and move to the back of the courtroom.

"The Court calls the case of SIG et al. versus SS et al. to order..." Plaintiff, with lawyer Paul Kennedy at the helm, introduces witnesses: Stefan O'Sullivan, Elizabeth McCoy, and Walter Mulliken - SIG writers and users of the seized *Altavista* BBS who'd joined in the lawsuit as plaintiffs - along with Wayne Bell, developer of WWTW bulletin board software; Government defense introduces Larry Courtois - former UT Austin "superuser exp" - and SS agents Timothy Foley and Barbara Golden.

Timothy Michael Foley takes the stand under cross-examination. Loyola University '84 Law School grad, trial lawyer for 2+ years, lately of the US Secret Service - a good ole boy in any other life, Foley was the SS agent assigned to the "1911 Document" investigation and his sworn affidavits to Fed Magistrate Stephen Capelle early in 1990 led to a search warrant for the SS raid on SIG. Foley rambles defensively about his computer expertise, begs of being on duty at SS Computer Fraud School, tells how he learned about "Social Engineering" there in mid '89, only months prior to the decision to raid SIG. Foley talks loudly of *Phreze 424* and the *CGI* Steiner case, sloppily explains BITNET to the judge, then mentions the *Phreze Project* - a "suspected hacker BBS" spread in Austin by "The Mentor" (aka Loyd Blankenship) and "Eric Bloodaxe" (aka Chris Goggans), and thought by the SS in 1990 to contain secret areas for intrusion on "computer crime." One of the sycops worked for SIG and therein lies the only grounds for the raid. However, under oath Foley admits that at the time of his affidavit to Capelle, he didn't have any info showing the 1911 document ever even reached the *Phreze* BBS and SIG. Moreover, Foley confesses to know that "blatant expert Hans Klugeff (who enters this grim picture later) had never logged into *Altavista*." When asked about the allegedly threatening SIG project called *GOONS Cyberpunk*, Foley states: "I did not read through the game."

Not terribly intimidating so far, but enough to show that the SS did not make a full disclosure to Magistrate Capelle before obtaining a search warrant. Even so, never assume the Government is sleeping.

Tip-walks Mark Batten, a tall, slim, bespectacled assistant US Attorney. Batten begins complaining, in fact he spends most of his off hours porting DOS games to

the Macintosh ("I got a Mac, in college and I've been doing one ever since" he tells me during break) Batten later Foley off the hook by having him testify that the SS didn't learn about Federal statutes which limit seizure of equipment from publishers.

Next we get Officer Larry Courtois on the stand. Courtois has been with the UT Austin police for years, but lately seems to be working for computer crime team. The SS search warrant against SIG claimed that Officer Courtois had provided "117 invasive addresses" about Loyd Blankenship and had one of Courtois's documents. There's one, Courtois denies the alleged snooping, since Blankenship was never affiliated with UT Austin nor in the school database. Courtois claims the document was printed after the SIG raid. Note that Officer Courtois is technically "on the other side" from SIG, but is depositions he discussed *Phreze* with the Feds. Batten has it that the Courtois's lawyer's car sports a nifty EFF bumper sticker. Ladies and gentlemen, this marks a blow for the Feds. But wait, another SS agent - Barbara Golden from the Chicago area - takes the stand. Golden looks timid, indignant, fearful. Like a third grade teacher surprised in a fire drill. She answers in fugal, nervous sips of "Yes" and "No." Golden - who concluded the SIG raid and computer equipment seizure - admits under oath that she "didn't know much about computers," claimed she "didn't know about search rules for publishers" but concedes that Steve Jackson Games Inc. - the renowned publisher of role-playing game books - wasn't a publisher. Plaintiff calls for a videotape of the raid - recorded by the SS - to be entered as evidence. After several abortive attempts (Sparks jokes: "Let the record show that no one really successfully operate the VCR although there were several attempts by various lawyers? the video finally spins its eerie record of the early morning bust on March 1, 1990. Officer walks down rows about printing schedules and hallway through whimsy from SIG walks in *Altavista*, shouting "We are a publisher!" Evidence doesn't get much more bizarre than this, and rumor has it that cyberpunk sociologist Bruce Shelling will show a copy of the tape as a backdrop during his next lecture tour.

Steve Gary Jackson judges into the hot seat next. Steve, who attended law school before becoming a gaming industry entrepreneur in 1980, understands the essence of this game and it shows. Over the course of the afternoon and the next morning, Steve's lawyers guide him through an extended testimony: the nature of role playing games (RPG)... creation of his *GOONS* system for role playing "cyberpunk" as a literary genre in words such as 1984 *220* *Neuroscience*... intentions for the seized *GOONS Cyberpunk* to have been a literary survey. "That book was key to our company's financial well being - distributors' judge you on the basis of new product each month." Jackson goes on to describe the *Altavista* BBS, how he didn't even know why it was seized by the Feds and therefore feared replacing it. "We tried

hard to find out why the BBS was seized...." At one point near the end, Jackson explains what appears to be his main contention against the government: "After the raid, I saw my employees being seized.... We couldn't see any way to stay in business without doing cases, so we had to get eight people out of 18.... If the Secret Service had just come with a subpoena we could have



Golden

shown or report every file in the printing for them."

Steve shows the first day's testimony with an appalling account of trying to obtain copies of his seized disks - vital business records and publication details which were held for months with no explanation from Agent Foley.

Foley (arguing to GCRBS Cyberpunk): "Do you realize you're publishing information on how to commit computer crime?"

Golden: "This is my game."

Day Two

Defence counsel Mark Batten cross-examines Jackson at a cowardly attempt to imply that SIG was in financial trouble before the raid but recovered to profitability afterward. Judge Sparks interrupts: "Because it was ruled by the Secret Service? In the Government's claim they Acquired his business by seizing equipment?"

Batten counters with a condescending right hook: "No, your Honor... then launches into a sordid tale about how the SIG game *Master* resulted from the raid, and how SIG capitalized on publicity surrounding the SS action. Because titles to pin the issue on Steve's Honor: "Why did you design *Master*?"

Golden: "I was angry. I am a writer, why do you say I got a lawyer?"

Elizabeth McCoy takes the stand next. As an interactive fiction writer for SIGs, she'd been a board moderator on part of the seized *Phreze* BBS. Elizabeth testifies that her printer "was seriously damaged by the raid" and goes on to read a private email message that was on the seized BBS and ostensibly "investigated" by the SS. The message contains a beautifully miskey personal letter from SIG

writer Stephen O'Sullivan about another writer in SIC, Walter Milliken - whom she since has married. Milliken takes the stand and also describes the use of email on *Whitewater*; BBS for SIC work. Walter understands email quite well, he's a computer scientist for BBN, the firm which created Internet.

Government hires a few good points here. But Britain tries to resume by reading a sworn deposition from SS computer security specialist Larry Beschby who analyzed the seized equipment. Beschby claims to



Kluepfel

have used Norton Utilities to conduct word searches, which Beschby explains to Judge Sparks. "He'd type in the word 'hack' and it would show on the screen with surrounding text." Note that Beschby wasn't available since he had resigned from the SS just as the case was scheduled to go to court. "and could not be reached." Some think Beschby may have taken a fall for the organization. As a tipoff, his deposition did include unfavorable remarks about Agent Foley's alleged computer expertise: "They might as well have had Mickey Mouse in there."

Next on the dance card, Wayne Bell steps up as an expert witness for SIC. As author of the WWVW software for BBS - which *Whitewater* uses - Wayne's words run on over 2000 systems, for an audience of 2 million. Wayne had been called in to testify the *Whitewater* BBS so soon as the SS had received it. "It appeared that all the mail had been deleted by March 20, 1992." Wayne testifies that he checked the PC's system clock and verified the time stamps with phone records which users had provided. "Off by about 6 minutes at most."

Judge Sparks asks to have the term "SSlog" defined at several points - born that two year memory. He claims utter ignorance of computing technology, which plays well into plaintiff's hand. SIC is trying to sue the US Government for damages based on Federal statutes and constitutional law, but the Government is putting a classified defense back by answering the judge with technical terms. So SIC needs to make this as simple and clear as possible.

Next up to the stand comes Henry Michael

Kluepfel, alleged computer crime expert and hacker from Berkeley, looking surprisingly the rascal between Woody Allen and Adolf Hitler - why, why? and the "I provide information related to damage" is the introduction Kluepfel uses to justify his place in the. He goes on to describe how in 1989-90 he'd been investigating the FBI document's spread by requiring into suspected BBS under the handle "RUTDCC" and looking for files about computer intrusion. He witness at length about *Whitewater*, *John*, FBI, etc., but admits that (1) the *Phantom* issue in question with the E911 document didn't provide any steps for how to break into computers and (2) the information is available to the public anyway. "But not quite what was in the *Whitewater* document" Judge Sparks becomes visibly hot in Kluepfel's set of technical terms, and passes the point that Kluepfel just sits his own story. So Kluepfel continues... He talks about exploring *Phantom* Probe, about finding a file related to E911, downloading it, providing an affidavit to BellSouth, then forwarding the file to the US Attorney in Chicago - William Cook.

Early in 1992, the *Phantom* Probe BBS shut down. Kluepfel explains that "Newlin was working where *Phantom* Probe BBS might reside since it wouldn't answer. Could Steve Jackson Games' *Whitewater* BBS be the new *Phantom* Probe?" Kluepfel goes on to admit the fact that "I did not tell Newlin that there was anything concerning Steve Jackson Games other than that Meador was employee of both BBS's, and that both BBS's ran WWVW software."

Again, the judge is covered in technicalities, and at this point the defense takes up questioning and prompts Kluepfel - "the US Government's computer expert - to help educate the judge. Kluepfel testifies about having found evidence on the *Phantom* Probe BBS, including "Kenall and Almedina, which can be used as tools for computer crime." Sparks then speaks about the need for a trial, whether other alternatives were open: "Would it have been possible for the Government to take this issue to another Reebok [sic], should be RUTDCC for information?" Kluepfel counters with his own reputation. "I was asked as an expert with 25 years in computer security, network security" - so obviously his word was good enough for the Government to act. So they do.

Hey, this guy is pure, wordiness distilled into a puny form. During court recess I go outside to walk him down, shaking the hand just to experience a genuine state of Disgust. We chat a bit, talk of our respective names at Earl Labs, how he works in a town where I used to live - Red Bank, NJ. Not a bad guy really, a bit nervous and defensive, probably a reasonable response for a person who has just had a ruler tuck to a federal judge and seems at least intelligent enough to know it.

Now the fireworks begin. Former US Attorney William Cook - also quit rather suddenly after the SIC case reached national press - climbs into the pilot seat. Finally those of us in the SIC peanut gallery recognize

who this asshole is, since he'd asked us to shut up during court recess (so as not to pollute my testimony). As if it were possible. But... Cook sits up to the stand like a cross between Walter Mathan and Dara Fiercy's rendition of George Bush, indignantly and undoubtedly to everyone in the courtroom except the judge. Cook even attempts court proceedings to correct plaintiff's counsel on proper procedure. This guy got hauled by the SS railroad now has a score to settle. Cook responds to cross-examination about his \$750,000 figure for the worth of the "Stoner" full document. He'd said he specifies that \$27,000 was for the purchase of an *Interleaf* word processing software package, several more thousand was for computer hardware used to type the document, along with salaries for people doing the typing... When pressed by plaintiff's counsel, Cook admits those *Interleaf* systems were not used up in the process of typing a few pages.

Moved to the point, Cook admits (1) that he knew about the *Phantom* Probe in 1992 - which hints government seizure of equipment from publishers; he didn't advise the SS about its implications prior to the SIC trial, and (2) that he understood the relevant wiretap law in the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), which MAY limit interception of email, but didn't advise the SS against seizing a BBS that contained unred email.

Cook then lies in DED's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) which "visited" Craig Newhall about *Phantom* and E911. "As a result, agents sought and received a search warrant" against SIC. Cook explains that after the seizure, two files were identified and deleted - an alleged password cracker called "DE ZIP" and some unperfected software believed to have been illegally copied. However he fails to specify what computer had the deleted files. Keep that in mind too.

Judge Sparks asks in to question William Cook for a bit, exposing two startling items: (1) Cook's admission that the US Attorney's office made an attempt to determine the nature of SIC's business prior to the trial, and (2) Cook's claim that he is "aware of an ongoing investigation about criminal charges against Blankenship and/or Enggens."

Next in line, SIC's accountant steps up to provide expert testimony about the damages incurred by the trial and confiscation of equipment, records, disks, etc. The accountant lists several key losses: printing books not being reissued, delayed shipments, loss of the BBS or a communications interface for the firm, benefits of good client, impact on Steve Jackson's own time for executive writing, and expenses for litigation. She provides balance sheets, cost estimates, revenue projections, etc., and the judge seems annoyed. Even using a seven percent interest rate for present discount values (a financial gateway to the Government, the accountant arrives at a \$2.1 million total for damages. Sparks doesn't seem happy and calls it a day...

Day Three

After a delay caused by unrelated legal proceedings, Government defense steps up and attempts to have the case thrown out of court, urging Judge Sparks not to risk extending the ECPA statute in response. Sparks grows annoyed: "It appears to me that I'd have to find that statute in agreement with the Government's case... It appears that Legal Blankenship could have prepared to engage in some heavy criminal activity. You saw a BBS with a notice about conspiracy... You would have other an hour or less in the time invested as it should have been done. Don't you think Enggens should decide how far the ECPA should extend? I don't think FIPA applies in any way to this case - so what? Did Blankenship have possession at the time the search warrant was executed by his ability (as sissy) to delete files? I was that answered?"

FFP-Austin members drop by to watch the last part of the trial - several students even manage to get out of school school for it - but a Paul Marshall backs them out because the rules aren't working well, judges. SS Agent Tim Foley goes back up as defense witness. He describes his impression of the confiscated G7/BBS Cyclopedia to be the Government's case about a "potential hacking conspiracy." "It appeared to me to be a futurized account of what LOD was doing." But under cross examination, he admits there was nothing in the search warrant's affidavit about a threat to national security, the disappearance of the *Phantom* Probe BBS, evidence of the *Phantom* Probe BBS presence at SIC, or evidence incriminating any other BBS at SIC.

Foley launches into an account of how Blankenship's Kenner place of work, Na Graphics in Austin, TX - he also been "sussed" at the time of the SIC trial. "We had a record that the E911 document had gone to Na Graphics. We went there and asked to see the machine that it crashed so we didn't pursue any



Cook

further." Foley testifies a plaintiff's exhibit - a handwritten document by SS agent John Lovett, which explains that a purported NSA document found at Enggens' home actually had a SIC logo, not NSA.

and copyright on the bottom, i.e. it was just a part of a game.

At this point plaintiff counsel Pete Kennedy and Judge Sparks both question Foley. In a legal equivalent of an outline that makes defense counsel turn pale...

Foley: "I took one week on the machine to make the files."

Kennedy: "But the equipment wasn't returned for three months."

Foley: "Yes?"

Kennedy: "Why?"

Foley: "She had to make reports."

Kennedy: "But shortly after one week, the United States of America would have finished copying the disks and have returned the equipment to Steve Jackson Games?"

Foley: "Yes."

Foley goes on to say there was never any evidence so he made \$30 before or after the seizure. Sparks guesses again, emphasizing:

"Way couldn't make certain seven days and returned to Steve Jackson Games 30 requested by his lawyer?" So Foley admits there was no reason not to return equipment after March 25, 1990 at the latest.

The mystery is that Foley had been assistant on the raid, and yet he'd only become aware of SJG on February 22, 1990 - just one week prior.

In closing remarks, Judge Sparks reveals a lungeous misnomerism: "Showed I know the illegal material was not in the GIERPS Psychopand [sic] draft? We know that the computers contained sensitive materials (OSI) document and even illegal materials (OSI-219). But let's assume a violation with regards to GIERPS Psychopand trial occurred, what were the damages established by the evidence?" Then he asks both sides to interpret the PPA statute.

Plaintiff specifies the damages to include: loss of BBS and delay of GIERPS Cyberquad release, which struck SJG at the worst possible time financially and cost eight people their jobs and reduced SJG's creative talent.

Defense dismisses the damages by claiming that the raid "only delayed GIERPS Cyberquad by less than three weeks (I down sized version based on old disks was released, then, plus better management procedures after the seizure, which forced Steve Jackson to spend less time writing and more on business may have been his best business move ever."

Sparks counters this urge: "So the Secret Service is now helping businesses by search and seizure? The officers charged with this 'evil conspiracy' obviously judged to a conclusion.... Admittedly without

evidence they took three computers and 300 disks and ignored Steve Jackson's lawyer's attempts to get back the equipment. It just doesn't pass the smell test for the Government to come in without any evidence against the company and take things that anybody could tell would harm the company. The reason this wasn't done in good faith was lack of investigation by the Secret Service. Evidence shows that by March 2, 1990, somebody in the Government knew a book was involved in the seizure. There is no question in my mind that Steve Jackson Games Inc. sustained damages and expenses as a result of misconduct by the US Secret Service...."

Immediately after the trial, Steve Jackson seemed pretty discouraged. He and Pete Kennedy walked across the room to talk with Mark Butler and company, offering "We've been talking as people to each other for quite some time" - to which one of the Government lawyers returned: "Now you know that we're not multi-headed Gorgons; we've all been in the same trench." Maybe not.

Later that night, a number of us met to decompress. We played a new game (about post-apocalyptic zatted rabbits) that somebody had submitted to SJG. Steve wanted to play, wanted to do anything but hear the words "lawyer" and "Secret Service" again for a long time. I brought over a collection of Smarties to help game wares for him to check out. When I left just past midnight, Steve was killing everybody else's bunions, kicking Mermonoids, and studying notes for another game all at the same time.

This, after standing up in the face of the United States Government, after fighting the good fight for three years without a paycheck - other than concepts. With all the courage and the humor and the gesture shown through, you have to admire a guy like that. Quite a bit. The WWII messes you don't find many heroes, but here is one indeed.



Judge Sparks

As this issue went to press, the verdict in the Steve Jackson case had not yet been reached. It's quite likely that there has been a decision by the time you are reading this. We will leave a recording on our main office line (516-751-2600) as soon as a verdict is announced. Details will appear in the Summer 1993 issue.

AS TOLD: 2000 PERSPECTIVE

One Angry Judge

By Scott Skinner

Foley (left) in a costly legal undertaking by an individual or individuals lacking in common sense, understanding, and foresight, resulting in an absurd or outrageous outcome. (Middle English) *foley*, from Old French, from *foi*, *foish*, from Latin *fohis*. See *fool*.]

We tried. Tried our damnest to see the trial. Trains, buses, and automobiles: we did on it. Even drove halfway across barren Texas desert, to places where even the radio waves don't go, and "TV" is something you catch in a deli. Well, our while rented compact got wind-whipped off the road so much we nicknamed it "Smoker'skie". But alas, for us the trial was never to be.

Postponed a week, they said, as we clutched our palpating hearts. "Hell, hell," they chorused, "that's the legal biz for ya." Yeah, we thought, hell, hell. So there you have it. Right place, wrong time. The trial hadn't even started and already we were in the grip of mortality.

And just why did we go through all the trouble? That's a trial, right? Wrong. For hackers, the Steve Jackson Games trial was nothing less than a religious event: Rome, Jerusalem, and Mecca all rolled into one. It was Woodstock for techno anarchists, and although our own pilgrimage ended a week short of the gavel, it was not without its moments.

Wasn't Steve at a local Texarkana, Ark., and the tury of a hip Austin nightlife. He was surprisingly pessimistic, despite news that the judge had sentenced the Secret Service to trying to seal the case. SJG Steve was anything but hesitant. Dynamite, pal! Let it go, my. My're making a big time for the "no sale." So we had it, we struck: three years since the March '87 raid of Steve Jackson Games by the Secret Service. And three years waiting for Justice is a long time by anyone's standards. As we listened to Steve's glowing trial progress, we understood that the barratress was a reflection of the chilling effect the raid and bust have had on us. Computer enthusiasts are prepared for untested global electronic communications seemed dead and gone, replaced instead by a hypervigilant hyper paranoid community of dispersed exiles. For many of us, the Steve Jackson trial was the only thing to look forward to. It would break up an old 10 First Amendment articles that have played us ever since the destruction of the electronic newsletter, Phreak. Through a marginal haze we let Steve and witness him look. The trial was one week away, and there was nothing left for us to do but slack. Back at the office, we watched and watched.

The trial lasted three days. News of the event spread across the Internet so quickly it would have put the AP newswire service to shame (that is, if the AP had even bothered to cover it). The plaintiffs effectively established that: 1) Neither Jackson nor the company SJG were ever sanctioned or any way guilty; 2) There was no investigation of SJG by the SS prior to the raid; 3) The official used by the SS to obtain their search warrant was erroneous; 4) The search warrant did not even meet the Service's own standards for a search and seizure; 5) The work in progress of a publisher was seized in violation of the Privacy Protection Act; 6) The SS were incompetent, because they were not even aware that this law existed; 7) Electronic mail was seized, printed, and read in violation of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act; 8) Electronic mail was deleted - evidence was "destroyed"; and 9) The SS purposefully and willfully stalled three months before returning seized computers and data to SJG after the investigation was over.

Incredulous? Outrageous? Judge Sparks thought so, which is why he spent fifteen minutes straight reprimanding Tim Foley (the agent responsible for the raid) for the behavior of the Secret Service. The dialogue that follows is perhaps the highlight of the trial.

Sparks: "Did it ever occur to you, Mr. Foley, that seizing this material could harm Steve Jackson economically?"

Foley: "No sir."

Sparks: "You actually did, you just had no idea anybody would actually go out and buy a lawyer and sue you."

According to the plaintiff's attorneys, Judge Sparks was "visibly angry," and the government was so shaken after being chewed out that they needed their case.

So the Secret Service? They said it couldn't be core. And yet this is exactly what Steve Jackson accomplished with the help of the Electronic Frontier Foundation. If the SJG trial has proven anything, it is the importance of a source of electronic civil liberties protection. Steve was fortunate to have the resources of competent EFF lawyers; many others are not so fortunate.

Electronic civil rights activists are needed more than ever. Activists who will not just lobby the government, but go the distance in court against big business, bad law enforcement, and their dinged circulations of First Amendment freedoms. Although the judge has yet to deliver a verdict on this case, we are confident that it will be favorable and precedent-setting. The SJG trial has sent a powerful message to an overzealous law enforcement community: no one, not even the Secret Service, is above the law. We can only hope that, in the days that follow, the Secret Service will have heed of this message before pulling another Foley.

As this issue went to press, the verdict in the Steve Jackson case had not yet been reached. It's quite likely that there has been a decision by the time you are reading this. We will leave a recording on our main office line (516-751-2600) as soon as a verdict is announced. Details will appear in the Summer 1993 issue.

begin. As you can see, after six attempts, anything will register. This is identical to the SouthWestern Bell computer mentioned in the Winter 1992-93 issue. Apparently it's some kind of standard RBOC hacker trap. Does the word entrapment spring to mind? Either way, the writer never actually broke into the SouthWestern Bell computer and neither will anybody who calls the number you listed. They'll simply fall into this false shell trap.

The Road Warrior
Thanks to you, our writer has now come out of hiding. The printer you ever let us address consistently identified us what we had printed. Considering this comes from another RBOC, this must be a standard ploy for many phone companies. Our next question is what are they doing with those traps?

Correction
Dear 2600:
The frequencies given in "De-freeling Callback Verification" (Autumn 1992) for the dial tone are wrong. After many hours of picking up the phone and listening to the dial tone, I decided that the correct frequencies were 3500Hz and 3400Hz.

Georgia Tech
CA
The frequencies given in "De-freeling Callback Verification" (Autumn 1992) for the dial tone are wrong. After many hours of picking up the phone and listening to the dial tone, I decided that the correct frequencies were 3500Hz and 3400Hz.

Info
Dear 2600:
Here is a note you may want to share with your readers for AT&T calling card less you call without any charges from any phone bank, land main, or for 10 cents a minute under the following conditions: 1) You subscribe to Reach Our America (S10 month includes one hour of free outside area, off-hour calls); 2) Your call is made to a number which is in a different state than the one you are calling from; 3) You call either a workbank or 10pm to 8 am.

Concerning the ongoing issue of back of security and verifications provided by various institutions (banks, telephone companies, etc.), I lived for many years in European countries (France, Switzerland, Great Britain), where you are not trusted by anybody. Every action requires positive verification. This may prevent some action but it makes life very difficult because you do not want to abuse the system. Making a collect call or third party call takes more as keep because everything has to be verified. All contacts with businesses have to be done in person or nobody takes a phone call. Even a time to support. Coming to the United States, where you are in general trusted by the authorities, was a big relief.

CL
Halsedel, NJ
What the AT&T plan is better than nothing, there are still far too many restrictions. While we need our businesses, workdays, and every way for us to make our lives free from authority in the country, any phone companies are here to serve us.

Dear 2600:
We have a quantity of surplus stock you'd like to report including the free-beam model. We would like to report them to the Universe. Price is necessary - is there an online console from here a poke and poke to see? Something that would be an appropriate add-on!

Kitpunching, CA
JR
The issue of no good device that's already connected basically, you'd need a back door device to connect. We signed up, if you're of the connecting a line machine.
Dear 2600:

Here are some phone numbers that go to a modern computer running the MUX LEX system: 602-241-2616, 3417, 3783, and 3783.
They are on an EOL system used to transfer GOLS engineering design files. Don't be surprised if you see mobile or mobile guidance systems in them.

The TTA
Arizona
For things server at anyone.
Dear 2600:

Greetings! Your readers may want to know about the magazine *MadMag Engineering*. It's loaded with articles about single-board computers, microcontrollers, embedded systems, etc. The latest issue has an ad on page 83 for "Spy Supply" and advertises a "cellular telephone medication handbook" for \$39.95. Looks interesting. One of your recent letters asked about cable TV hacking. Here's some info. Most of the current models of decoders are digital. There's all sorts of internal monitoring software in these boxes. A friend of mine works for a local set-top manufacturer and gave me the scoop. These boxes can detect tampering and have programming in "game" levels. If you mess with them, they'll shut off, but if you undo your wrongs, it'll forgive you and start working again. If you really mess with it, it'll write alternating 1's and 0's into its program store and die. The way they catch hackers is something like this: the central office (no burrow, a phaser) sends out a signal that says "everyone now getting HBO, raise your hands" and the set-tops do. It then says "I will now send a list of everyone who's supposed to be getting HBO. As I call your name (UD), you may have your hands." When the roll call is done, the signal is then sent out "everyone who still has your hand up, please stand down." Kahlboke, 1's and 0's. Here's a fun hack: stretch out those "free preview" workbooks. The cable company sends out a signal that says "all non-premium set-tops, turn on HBO" and you enjoy the weekend. They then send out a signal at mid-night Sunday: "OK, turn off HBO." Suppose your set-top gets the turn on signal and somehow gets unregistered from the cable system while the turn off signal is being sent. It wouldn't know it was a supposed to not be getting HBO when it was reconnected sometime Monday. A friend of mine had this and even called the cable company to report that he was still getting HBO. They didn't believe him and

never did anything about it.

Genie editor, I have some experience with what the local RBOC calls ESSX (sort of service). The most interesting part of this is the customer is allowed to use a decoder to register on his phone features. Yes, Mr. Bell actually encourages customers to do this. If you think it would be of interest, I could knock out an article on ESSX hacking.

Avatar
We've recently increased in articles after the new you started. As for reader, I think our page 76 for more info.
Dear 2600:

In your last letters column was a request from a reader on a magazine called *Moddy-Ology*. I got it at the office, so here's the info. Subscriptions can be placed at (800) 873-3213. Letters to the editor can be addressed to 21870 Q Grand Street, Suite 230 Woodland Hills, CA 91367. FAX: (818) 583-6124. Company ID: 76546; 3722. I found your magazine on the net at the new Jack London Square Barnes & Noble. I had heard about it back on the Well and in other publications.

Dear 2600:
I think someone a while ago asked about those send above credit card numbers. I got an old VPIR/NO, and we also use a new model where I work. The password to get into them is 166831. I think some of the new ones replace that with 226831. I haven't really got it figured out yet, and there are a lot of differences between the old and new ones, but if you're interested I'll get back to you. There are some key registers in them that I think control a by setting jobs. I know the one I have can go into a diagnostic mode by hitting " and 3 at the same time, giving you four diagnostics to choose from. Choosing 4 lets you see the word and read whatever's on it.

Misha
Dear 2600:
I've found out some interesting stuff on the ever-popular Radio Shack "mini dialer" conversion. According to the original article (2/90), Autumn 1990) the optimum crystal frequency for creating not too many is 6.460 MHz. As shown in that article, a 6.456 MHz crystal would work. However, I noticed that Dial King (818) 344-4519 sells extremely small 6.500 MHz crystals, so I tried one in my own dialer. It works great, although the timing of the low pulses is slightly different than a real quarter tone. I installed this, they crystal inside the dialer, along with the original 3.579 MHz crystal and a mini slide switch. If you want to try the 6.500 MHz crystal from Dial King, get part number M12. Only costs \$1.73. I also noticed that the dialer can generate a single-frequency tone. I'm talking about the "remote tone" that beeps at you when you enter an invalid key response. This tone comes out of the tone press speaker rather than the large main speaker. You can keep the error tone by pressing the "memory" key twice, for example. The pitch of the error tone changes

with the crystal frequency of the dialer, just like the DTMF tones do. I was curious as to how the pitch for frequency, if you will, of the error tone was related to the crystal frequency of the dialer, so I checked it out in the electronics lab. I found that the frequency of the error tone is equal to the crystal frequency divided by 3024. For example, if the crystal frequency is 3.579 MHz, the frequency of the error tone is 3579/3024 = 1.495 kHz. So if you wanted to generate a certain single-frequency tone, like 2000 Hz for instance, the necessary crystal frequency would be the desired error tone frequency times 3024. For 2000 Hz, the crystal frequency would be 2600*1024 = 2,652,800 MHz. Unfortunately, this is not a standard crystal value. With all this in mind, it would be very convenient to have multiple and selectable crystal frequencies for your own dialer. If anyone could come up with a low power, stable, variable frequency oscillator which was extractable from the dialer's keypad, that would be a major hack.

Mr. Upstreet
Red Box Questions
Dear 2600:

Is there a known incompatibility with red boxes and Pac Bell payphones? I've tried it on Pac Bell payphones all over town with no joy. A friend suggested that Pac Bell may have tweaked the boxes a bit so as to render the red box hack useless.
I wish that I had looked in the back of your mag before ordering from J&N crystals; I could have saved a few dollars building a device that may only be of use in other parts of the country.

Frustrated in Berkeley
There are two types of calls that will always not dial tone. One is for from RBOC (is your card Pac Bell) calls that have only that tone. I require an additional deposit. The other is for calls handled by a long distance company. There are two different systems so what does it work on one may work on another.

Data in the Air
Dear 2600:

I have two questions. First, I have recently bought a \$20 radio transmitter from a mail order place that advertises at the back of *Popular Science*. What I was wondering about was, would it be possible to send data from a modem over the airwaves via the transmitter? And just have the people listen in, connect their modems to a radio receiver, and watch as the data is beamed over the system. Next, could you try and settle an argument I am currently in with my friend. On New Year's Eve, while my friend was plunking with a payphone, and we were waiting for a ride to pick us up, I tried to explain to him that television cable was transmitted over the phone lines. He doesn't believe me, and although I do believe I read it somewhere, I am not certain either. Thank you could clear things up for the both of us!

The Wiggled Precedents

Oregon

It certainly is possible to transmit data over analog. *WALL FILL* in New York did this a number of years ago. Of course, most *Literary Fix* compiled to change the notion of that point. If your transmitter is delivering a clean signal, you should be able to do the same thing. However, your range will be very limited. Cable TV can only be transmitted over phone lines if the phone company carries cable TV. If a carrier does the same of the phone to have this happen, as well as to have cable company delivering alternative channels.

Questions

Dear 2600:

In your current issue, in response to a letter for books to read to better understand telecommunication systems, you list *Telecommunications Systems Engineering* by Roger L. Freeman. I have accessed my local library's computer network (which is connected to about every library system in the northern part of Ohio), and found only one location with this book. They have it listed as a reference book, which means a cannot leave the library. This library is not anywhere near to me. What I would like to know is if you have an address to the publisher or someone that I can get a copy of this book? Thank you. And keep up the great work!

JG

Your book is readily available to bookstores. If you need to contact the publisher, they are Wiley-Interscience located at 605 3rd Ave., NY, NY 10158. The ISBN number of the book is 0-471-65423-9.

Dear 2600:

In the book *Out of the Inner Circle* the author mentions that in 1954 the Bell telephone system published a complete description of the multi-frequency system, including the specific frequencies and descriptions of how the frequencies were used. Is this information still applicable today? Haven't the phone system done anything to stop the use of blue boxes? Can I get a copy of this article somewhere?

TW

Blaghamton
You can probably find that Bell document in a technical library somewhere but you can get the same information in any hacker publication, including this one. And, yes, the phone company has done quite a bit to stop the use of blue boxes. The active are really over.

Dear 2600:

Is the \$200 lifetime subscription renounced in all back issues?

MJ

Massachusetts
Yes, but not of new, all lifetime subscribers also get 1984, 1985, and 1986 back issues. (No subscription). Current offers can write us if they want to get those issues.

Dear 2600:

It would be greatly appreciated if you could answer a few questions for me. First, does AT&T or any third party sell operator or service manuals for telephone switching systems? Second, how does one find out which systems are where? Third, what frequencies do cellular telephones transmit on? Finally, is there any way to tell if ANI is being used on your?

SB

Massachusetts

You can get phone company related manuals from the AT&T Customer Information Center at 800-413-6600 or *Reference* at 800-212-1227 or 800-699-5801. We should warn you that they can be rather expensive. For a free guide, ask for the catalogue of technical information. As for finding numbers, it requires a bit of skill. You have to find someone in the phone company who can tell you which can be amazingly difficult. All the cellular info you could possibly want can be found starting on page 4. ANI is always being used in some states - operators and the billing computer always receive that information. It's wise to assume that all 900, 800, and 900 numbers are using ANI.

Dear 2600:

What issue contained the article "How Phone Phreaks Are Caught"?

Also, I built a red box and use it on freephones when I'm on the road. I've used it on a couple of payphones by my house. Is this wise? What are the chances of getting caught?

Finally, does anyone monitor what goes in and out of the 2600 offices?

Frankfurt-am-Main

That article was in the Spring 1990 issue. But if you keep it up, you may be writing the sequel. Blue boxes of the past were caught primarily because they used the same phasers, even ones under their noses. Red boxes can only use phasers that the owner logic authorized at some point. And if you happen to be a expert in the neighborhood, it could get unpleasant. As for people monitoring our traffic, we have no way of knowing, but we do know that nothing and nobody contact into the office without our approval.

Dear 2600:

There used to be a three digit number in New York City that one could dial, hang up, and get to ring in your own phone. I had used this several times years ago and learned that the number is changed regularly. I contacted a New York Telephone leasing a few weeks back who advised me that this phone capability has been discontinued. Since I cannot take this as gospel, I am hoping that you have this "secret" way of getting your own phone to ring without having to ask the electrician/operator to do the same. This capability is useful to me when I wish to check out any something defective Cabela-Phone answering machine. Also, perhaps you can tell me where I might

purchase the removable carbon size microphone that also into the "talk" end of the handset. It has to wire connectors, and makes contact by pressure alone. The phone company will not sell me one. (The carbon in the face evidently picks up. Tapping it on a table can help, but mine is taped out.)

AB

New York

The price, \$60, plus the last four digits of your phone number, works in much of New York. After buying a second antenna, you flash the microphone, hang up, and your phone should ring. An alternative way of getting a microphone is to substitute a 2-way collar. While connected to something preferably not a phone, push over in your 3-way, then hang up. Your first call will ring back. As for getting a new microphone, go to where old phones are found. You'll find one or two where you can find old phones and their components, for virtually nothing.

Dear 2600:

In the Winter 1990 issue (page 28) there was a request for development of a circuit or "add-on" box to send a false number to the party you are calling through Caller ID. Has any such circuit been developed or are there any such plans in the works?

JL

Shorttun, NY

We hope there are plans but we have yet to see them. Any readers out there interested in doing this?

Dear 2600:

I show guitar in a ska band in New York City and know a bit about the origins of the music. I noticed a cover of a white book drawn by a "Sir Lord Comic", who was a ska singer in former book to you '68. I have little doubt that the Sir Lord Comic who painted the cover knew of him, but I just had to make sure it wasn't the original. No way, but I had to ask. And another cover with reference to a Bob Marley song made me have to ask. I love 2600! Incidentally, keep it coming.

Bresling

You're very observant. Sir Lord Comic was not the name of the artist who did the cover even though it looked like a signature; it was a reference to the very person you mentioned. Lawrence Silver was another reference to a ska song of that era with a signature on the same cover.

Fixing Your Credit

Dear 2600:

Just picked up the Winter 92-93 issue. The enforcement of the Fair Credit Act comes under the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission. That's why the "police" wouldn't help you. He has in writing to the FTC. And yes, Montana did violate the law big time. He may also write his Senator and Reps about the problem. If all they do is write a letter on his behalf it can be enough. If AMEX gave Mercedes a card in his name without having his signature on an application, then they are in the big do-do - once

again. FTC's jurisdiction. For anyone else having credit problems: First talk to the person who put the stuff on the report. Many times they can be dealt with if you are nice and they are not. If the bad stuff is from Sears, it may take a personal visit but many car dealers/mortgage companies know that Sears is the worst and will completely disregard any inquiries from them. Next either have the creditor contact the big three (TRW, Equifax) or contact them yourself via letter (always certified with return receipt requested) and point out the error. They will investigate and get back to you in 6-8 weeks. Most problems are solved at this point. If you still have a problem with a creditor withholding a Sears store about you, call them or write them one last time and ask them to produce the evidence (the credit slip you changed but never paid for). If they can't, and they don't, remove the derogatory, write the FTC and congressmen. A lawyer is the last step. Most often you don't need one. You can also file a suit PRO-SE (in your own behalf). Sometimes though, as I said, a personal visit to the credit office of whoever is the pain in the butt will help immensely. Get their phone number and call for visit a library near them. Look in *Cable* (reverse directory) for the address. Usually the actual number will not be there but you will find a number close which is the start of the track for that PDK. Now you have the address. Get into a tax, clean up, and your hair (don't No, but it works). Give 'em an unannounced visit. Don't take 'em's in a meeting. Be firm, but polite. Stick up for yourself. This procedure clears 95% percent of misreport and hangs away 75 percent of overpaid derogatory information from your credit report.

DC Central

Surprising Facts

Dear 2600:

Have you seen these numbers from the phone companies? The major telecom carriers are reporting that 1992 was a bad year for the phone business. In fact 90 percent of phone service from corporations, Sprint reported fraud claims by its business customers dropped 96 percent, to \$670,000, or \$1,350 per incident compared to an average loss of \$35,000 in 1991. AT&T says fraud claims made in it dropped about 88 percent, and MCI says it has also seen a drop in claims. In other words, 1992 losses were a far cry from the \$1 billion to \$3 billion a year claimed as losses in past years. The major reason for the drop: customer awareness.

JM

Means that the number of hackers continues to rise.

Spanish Connection

Dear 2600:

I would like to collaborate with 2600 Magazine and send articles and general information from Spain. There are very many people interested in hacking in

Spain and Latin America.

Here is some interesting information:
Criminal Justice Bulletin Board Services: 602-266-1699, 415-644-6896, 408-287-8399, 916-392-2390 (NCJIS - SEARCH), 818-405-4342, 714-434-8931 (APCO), 310-875-3735, 510-815-9057 (DAMPA), 719-591-7415 (FIRENET), 303-887-7188, 904-646-2735, 301-447-2787 (Arson BBS), 301-738-8895.
My hacker group is IBERLACKER.

GMV
Morla Granada, Spain

BBS Info

Dear 2600:
I was wondering if there is some sort of BBS newsletter to keep me informed on BBS coming and going, which are hot and which are not, etc.

JCIB
Concord, NC

Boardcast is probably the way. You can reach them at 800-933-6034. For those outside the U.S., dial 303-973-6034. If we hear of others, we'll post here also.

Evil Payphones

Dear 2600:
I have made an annoying and describing trail in my local CAP Bell payphones. They have started to act like COCCOT's. I first noticed it about six months ago, when a new legion of CAP phobes with gray rather than black handsets started appearing. I placed a local call on one of them, using a quarter, and I could hear this little click a few seconds after the call went through that sounded as if they had just un-sealed the speaker or turned out this was true. Odd, I thought. Then, after three rings, this computerized voice came on and said something like, "Your called party does not seem to be answering. Please hang up and try again later." I was very amused at first, because I thought it had disconnected me and would not even be me leave a message, but it in fact did not disconnect me. Nevertheless, this genuine CAP Bell phone acted exactly like a COCCOT. Is it possible CAP is buying up COCCOT's and converting them to CAP phones? The phone looked exactly like a standard CAP payphone, except that the familiar black handset was conspicuously gray. As you can probably guess, not buying off of these new phones is as difficult or impossible as it is off of a COCCOT.

I called CAP to ask them about this. But the woman I talked to knew nothing about any new CAP payphones. She thought it might have been related to their new Send A-Call feature, which they apparently have been having a lot of problems with. But that didn't make any sense. This particular phone did have a place below the instructional plate describing the Send A-Call feature, which I hadn't heard of before, in place of the usual plate that says "Out of Change? Press a collect call, etc."

Idahoans
Arlington, VA

Nothing is impossible when it comes to AT&T company phobes. The best example of this is AT&T wronging people out to save several hundred payphobes because they'll get you off of course. It never does a fee whatever, if you take a good look at these weird looking payphobes, particularly the ones that try to look like "real" ones, you'll find that they're made by AT&T.

Access to 2600

Dear 2600:

As you have heard a while ago, after being confused by a belief by those geeks at PC Heat and payphobed out after thinking through the pages of Month 2000, I've discovered that 2600 is what I want.

I was at a bookstore, looking through gaming magazines. I saw a sneaky neighborhood Beat, Hours and Goals, and a very neat-looking game, *Canada Monthly*. I saw a long page with the remains of what looked like the number 2000 on it. Lockdown this was great! "The Hacker Quarterly".

My curiosity then got started of my body, and I investigated further. Despite the empty condition, I paid the four bucks. When I got to the counter, the clerk told me that she would send me my 2600 with the rest of the book. Looking at my copy, I see that it is the Autumn issue. No doubt by now whether you're out and I have no place to look for it. At my house, I sat down that night and couldn't believe what I was reading. At this rate of telephone "books" with the use of electronic modems, make me think to myself: "See this book stuff and I want more!" I'm now thinking of subscribing. Just have one question: How come a one-year subscription costs 21 bucks, when cover price is 16?

Fixed Probert's mistake on getting contact with you. Being an extreme beginner, I have little or no knowledge of these "books" that everyone seems to be referring to. You should make a "guidebook" available for the price of a book case. This book should explain when all current readers are assumed to know, so that we new readers and novice phobes don't get into the thing itself.

Kosovan Coar Zep for his info on COCCOT's. With his article, I was able to successfully build a combo box by making enhancements to an existing Radio Shack one. I had a half of a time getting the materials, though. I would expect that Radio Shack employees are very reluctant to talk over their work unless they know what they're going to be used for. When they see a former-year old getting a pocket dialer, a mini laptop switch, and a little bit of wire, something must go off in their heads. My computer:

Radio Shack Testkit: So you're into phones, huh?

Me: Me? No, not really.

Radio Shack Testkit: Well, why're you getting this?

Me: It's (uhmm) a Christmas present!

Radio Shack Salesperson: For who? Your dad?

Me: (go to hell) No, my friend wanted me to pick it up for him. I don't know why.

Radio Shack Testkit: Well, you could do some pretty nasty stuff with this thing if you know how to use it. Me: :)

Radio Shack Salesperson: Well, there ya go. Have fun.

Come on! Is it really necessary to ask all of these questions? I was afraid that if I mentioned the man that it was mine of the business, he would forget about the sale that was in effect that day.

Please write back your response, because I doubt that I'll be able to read about it in your mag. Under the circumstances, I don't think I'll be able to find 2600 as easily as I did last time.

The Apple II Evangelist
Palo Alto, CA

Your problem is very easily solved. All you have to do is subscribe. It costs a little less to get us on the newsletter but more in that degree of uncertainty that you have to get through. Regarding Radio Shack, we don't know why they have to interrogate all of their customers the way they do. It's extremely annoying and has had many of us to go elsewhere. One store near our house when we have no choice, we always find them longer than a time. A little thing like an eight digit phone number or a zip code with a letter in it can ruin their entire day.

Rolling Stone Corrections

Dear 2600:

Reading the Autumn 1992 issue, I read through Clark Keel's nice letter on the hacker's reading list (page 28). I skipped over and picked up a copy of the Rolling Stone September 19, 1991 article "Samurai Hackers" and got an instant laugh.

If you'll recall the 2600 article (Winter 1990) which the New Yorker (Lynda Edwards) cites, it wasn't at all as what she had written.

1) I am not a GCF editor.

2) I was definitely invited by Jeffrey Lund.

3) Lund did not like my bookies - rather he was one of them and I was the opposite number. I was only here to do so - hence my term, "Samurai Hackers" (in memory of John Beahm, who I hope is enjoying this even as I write). In part of fact, this was the guest of the article - a reference of how bookies, like the samurai of old, often work under the auspices of a different or superior power and political figures.

4) Lund was soon reconcoiled after the legislative hearings. Although simple allegations of corruption and governmental abuse were uncovered, both parties simultaneously excused the other. Lund now works as the Deputy Registrar of Deeds for the County of Canada. He now makes nearly \$5,000 over what he previously made as a legislative staffer.

5) And for the closing act, read the *Alamy Peak Post*, July 25th, 1991, editorial page A-18 on the matter of the massive computer tapes being destroyed. It was, you see, the discrepancies which appeared in the master tapes which led to the entire investigation in the first place. Little or no mention elsewhere has been made of these research being destroyed.

As for your great sales being revealed, so what? Sometimes media organs become just that - organs. I find it amusing when a large scale mass marketed magazine as *Rolling Stone* can't even read verbatim what it is they're using

correctly. I suspect that Mr. Edwards got her information wrongly, rather than from a direct source. If this is the case, then how can these questions of democracy report responsibly as to what is actually going on? I agree with Mr. Goldberg's position that the media must themselves be better informed and that we had better start making sure that all aspects of the word is put out there for all to consider and judge accordingly. Dialogue never ceases as no mouth is a stake for us to keep quiet.

What goal is knowledge? It's a wrong?
Keep the safe, baby.
HELL goodie!
We couldn't agree more. And to answer your private question, the answer is yes.

Special Phone

Dear 2600:

When can I buy a phone that has the A, B, C, and D lines on it in addition to the 0-9, *, and # keys? My two most annoying radio has been on it. But I can only use them when I am making phone calls to an auto phob.

TL
Tempe, AZ

Modems are also capable of dialing the extra four keys. If anyone knows of regular company phones that have these keys, we'd like to know. It would cost some extra money to have them, someone that includes and the.

Seeking Virus BBS's

Dear 2600:

I just received my first copy of your magazine and last year's back issues, and I love them. I don't know if I'll ever have the guts to climb up telephone poles and do late night hacking sessions, but I have been known to poke around a few Internet sites and have a look. Your publication has already given me ideas on some new things to try.

I'd like to know two things: 1) Do you or your readers know how I could get into any of the virus BBS's that are out there? Every time I read an article on viruses I keep hearing about the "viral BBS's" that carry virus source. But I'll be damned if I can find one. 2) Are there people in the Rochester, NY area that would be interested in having 2600 meetings? I'd offer to try to set things up myself but I wasn't quite a bit and my acquaintance would be spotty.

Maybe if I find some European virus BBS numbers I'll have a good reason to build the Radio Shack and how and do my BBSing for free!

YTMH

(Your Friendly Neighborhood Hacker)
There probably are people in your area interested in having meetings but somebody has to take the initiative. There are BBS's that specialize in viruses but they're kind of fancy about giving their numbers out. If you succeed in your quest, you will certainly be a sight - a hacker with a laptop hooked to a payphone sitting a red box to connect to a European virus BBS. You just can't get more evil than that.

(Continued from page 11)

82150 82151 82152 82153 82154 82155 82156 82157 82158

82159 82160 82161 82162 82163 82164 82165 82166 82167

82168 82169 82170 82171 82172 82173 82174 82175 82176

82177 82178 82179 82180 82181 82182 82183 82184 82185

82186 82187 82188 82189 82190 82191 82192 82193 82194

82195 82196 82197 82198 82199 82200 82201 82202 82203

82204 82205 82206 82207 82208 82209 82210 82211 82212

82213 82214 82215 82216 82217 82218 82219 82220 82221

82222 82223 82224 82225 82226 82227 82228 82229 82230

82231 82232 82233 82234 82235 82236 82237 82238 82239

82240 82241 82242 82243 82244 82245 82246 82247 82248

82249 82250 82251 82252 82253 82254 82255 82256 82257

82258 82259 82260 82261 82262 82263 82264 82265 82266

82267 82268 82269 82270 82271 82272 82273 82274 82275

82276 82277 82278 82279 82280 82281 82282 82283 82284

82285 82286 82287 82288 82289 82290 82291 82292 82293

82294 82295 82296 82297 82298 82299 82300 82301 82302

82303 82304 82305 82306 82307 82308 82309 82310 82311

82312 82313 82314 82315 82316 82317 82318 82319 82320

82321 82322 82323 82324 82325 82326 82327 82328 82329

82330 82331 82332 82333 82334 82335 82336 82337 82338

82339 82340 82341 82342 82343 82344 82345 82346 82347

82348 82349 82350 82351 82352 82353 82354 82355 82356

82357 82358 82359 82360 82361 82362 82363 82364 82365

82366 82367 82368 82369 82370 82371 82372 82373 82374

82375 82376 82377 82378 82379 82380 82381 82382 82383

82384 82385 82386 82387 82388 82389 82390 82391 82392

82393 82394 82395 82396 82397 82398 82399 82400 82401

82402 82403 82404 82405 82406 82407 82408 82409 82410

82411 82412 82413 82414 82415 82416 82417 82418 82419

82420 82421 82422 82423 82424 82425 82426 82427 82428

82429 82430 82431 82432 82433 82434 82435 82436 82437

82438 82439 82440 82441 82442 82443 82444 82445 82446

82447 82448 82449 82450 82451 82452 82453 82454 82455

82456 82457 82458 82459 82460 82461 82462 82463 82464

82465 82466 82467 82468 82469 82470 82471 82472 82473

82474 82475 82476 82477 82478 82479 82480 82481 82482

82483 82484 82485 82486 82487 82488 82489 82490 82491

82492 82493 82494 82495 82496 82497 82498 82499 82500

82501 82502 82503 82504 82505 82506 82507 82508 82509

82510 82511 82512 82513 82514 82515 82516 82517 82518

82519 82520 82521 82522 82523 82524 82525 82526 82527

82528 82529 82530 82531 82532 82533 82534 82535 82536

82537 82538 82539 82540 82541 82542 82543 82544 82545

82546 82547 82548 82549 82550 82551 82552 82553 82554

82555 82556 82557 82558 82559 82560 82561 82562 82563

82564 82565 82566 82567 82568 82569 82570 82571 82572

82573 82574 82575 82576 82577 82578 82579 82580 82581

82582 82583 82584 82585 82586 82587 82588 82589 82590

one on the left.

Mobile reception is almost a waste of time unless

you have an outdoor antenna. And, since the mobile

will be repeated on the cell site, it's better to listen to

the cell frequencies. You may not be able to hear both

sides of the conversation if you listen only to the

mobile frequencies. If it is useful, however, for

determining which channel cell you're in. If you use

the antenna that came with the scanner, mobile range

will be decreased down to one or two miles. By

checking the scanner manual against the cell list above

(833.030 844.990 MHz), you can tell what cell the

mobile is in. This is also useful on the cell site

frequencies. If you hear someone say, "I'm at the

corner of highway 77 and 27," and you know where

the cell site antenna is in the area, you can check the

frequency listing above and determine what cell that

antenna belongs to.

Where to Get What You Want!

Obviously, a device is needed to download all

those ESN/MINs, etc. of the cellular antennas. Here's

the stuff I found so far that is under \$2000 (this ain't a

cheap hobby).

CCS Company, P.O. Box 11191, Milwaukee,

WI 53211 (414-781-2482) They sell everything you

need for \$300 to \$300. Kits are cheaper. Their device

interfaces between an 800 mhz capable scanner and

your computer. Make sure you tell them you want the

REVERSE model DDI. (This is what I use.)

Curitts Electro Devices, 1245 Pear Ave,

Mountain View, CA 94043 (800-333-2790, Fax 415-

964-8774) They sell an ESN reader for \$1295 that can

read ESN/MIN, etc. but only from a short distance

(maximum is 30 feet). They also sell a security model

for \$1595 and a NAM programmer for \$1195. They

publish a book called NAMFAX for \$179 that tells

you how to re-program hundreds of different cellulars

through the keypad on the handset. (Note: You can't

reprogram ESN's through the keypad unless you re-

write the phone's software.)

Waretek Communications Div., 4808

Cherchman Drypass, Indianapolis, IN 46204-6109

(800-345-6356 or 317-758-5965) They sell a "Cellular

LD Tracker" that's real similar to Curitts's ESN reader

but supposedly has a longer range. Price: \$1895.

Noosham Electronics, 4539 Orange Grove Ave.,

Sacramento, CA 95841 (916-974-8071) They sell

green barriers for \$13955 (I bought one myself).

Motorola (800-435-5202) They sell a cellular

service manual that's used in their cellular service

classes for \$30. Ask for the Order Fulfillment

department. Item # 652093-00650. This manual tells it

all! An absolute must to have.

Bishop Company (900-829-0572) They publish

books similar to Curitts's Nemba. Send for catalog.

Cellular Security

Well, we know a properly cloned cell phone is

virtually impossible to detect. Or is it? Security

companies rely on matching call patterns of

subscribers' histories to current use, i.e., when 200

calls to E3375 show up in a day or 80 long distance

calls in Colton, Arizona show up in a short period,

all kinds of flags and whistles go off! The security

companies will even keep records of people that call

numbers that have been previously called by numbered

phones and flag the phone calling that number as a

potential fraudulent phone. These flags can be set to go

off by a number of parameters: number of long

distance calls per hour/day/month, etc. Another

method they use is when the real phone places a call

and the cloned phone places another call soon

afterwards, you from a distance from the first call that's

impossible to travel in such a short period of time.

Example: At 5 pm Friday Phone A calls from

Manchester and completes call at 5:10 pm. At 5:12 pm

Cloned Phone B calls from Queens. No one can travel

those distances in two minutes, thus that ESN/MIN is

flagged as a clone by the phone company. These

clonings are just now starting to be used in larger

cities. Some software will track a flagged cell phone

from cell site to cell site.

Common flaggers: cell company software looks

for an identical ESN's, manufacturer model, 90.34 % are

then are broadcast by the cellular phone on its REV/BSAC

channel. (If one ignores all that data off the reverse

channel and interprets it in the cloned phone, detection

is still nearly impossible.)

Some cloning tools have been known to use false

ID and cards to subscribe to a cellular service, then

burn out the phone before the first month's bill arrives

to the unsuspecting real person.

Conclusion

The future for cellular fraud is wide open. As the

reverse software of the over 500 brands of cellular

phones in existence becomes "cracked" and re-written

and stored via the underground, fraud will increase

like wildfire. Virtually nothing can be done to stop the

informed phone phreak as he will change ESN/MIN's,

etc. easily and frequently. A new era has dawned since the

2900 here was discovered to just now cloning

in cellular phreaking.

Since I'm taking the cut out of the bag for the first

time here, I really wish the box needed to read reverse

channel the BDDO Box! (Shit, after 12 years I finally

got to name a box.)



If, for example, you live near the asterisk (*) in the above diagram, you will be able to easily hear the G, C, E, and A cells you're near. Since the maximum ground range of a cell is three to five miles, you'll be able to hear them a bit farther away. However, due to the nature of the FM transmissions at the cell sites (they capture only the strongest signal), you should be able to hear all seven cells. Which one of each cell you hear will depend on your location and the strength of the received signal. In the above diagram, you'll most likely hear the F cell in the upper right, rather than the

THE EXCLUSIVE 2600 HACKER VIDEO

Dramatic actual footage of Dutch hackers getting into an American military computer system in the summer of 1991. May be too intense for young viewers.

\$10, VHS NTSC format

2600 Video
PO Box 752
Middle Island, NY 11953

Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

(continued from page 11)

82780	82789	82790	82791	82792	82793	82794	82795	82796	82797	82798	82799
82800	82801	82802	82803	82804	82805	82806	82807	82808	82809	82810	82811
82812	82813	82814	82815	82816	82817	82818	82819	82820	82821	82822	82823
82824	82825	82826	82827	82828	82829	82830	82831	82832	82833	82834	82835
82836	82837	82838	82839	82840	82841	82842	82843	82844	82845	82846	82847
82848	82849	82850	82851	82852	82853	82854	82855	82856	82857	82858	82859
82860	82861	82862	82863	82864	82865	82866	82867	82868	82869	82870	82871
82872	82873	82874	82875	82876	82877	82878	82879	82880	82881	82882	82883
82884	82885	82886	82887	82888	82889	82890	82891	82892	82893	82894	82895
82896	82897	82898	82899	82900	82901	82902	82903	82904	82905	82906	82907
82908	82909	82910	82911	82912	82913	82914	82915	82916	82917	82918	82919
82920	82921	82922	82923	82924	82925	82926	82927	82928	82929	82930	82931
82932	82933	82934	82935	82936	82937	82938	82939	82940	82941	82942	82943
82944	82945	82946	82947	82948	82949	82950	82951	82952	82953	82954	82955
82956	82957	82958	82959	82960	82961	82962	82963	82964	82965	82966	82967
82968	82969	82970	82971	82972	82973	82974	82975	82976	82977	82978	82979
82980	82981	82982	82983	82984	82985	82986	82987	82988	82989	82990	82991
82992	82993	82994	82995	82996	82997	82998	82999	83000	83001	83002	83003

Mentoring of these sites is obviously going to be easier than monitoring the mobiles. The cell base sites are towers (usually steel) with a triangle-shaped "tower" on top and scoring a couple of what appear to be vertical antennas. These base sites have a range of three to five miles. If you take a look at the hexagonal diagram, you can see how they are laid out. The cell transmitter is in the middle of the cell. It is possible to hear many, many, or all of the cells in your city, depending on your location. The closer you live to a boundary, the greater the chances of your being able to receive more cells. Due to the nature of radio signals, the actual cell shape is more or less round. However, the hexagon shape lends itself better to show how the system is laid out. With a cellular coverage area, there will be some overlapping between adjacent cells.



If, for example, you live near the center (C) in the above diagram, you will be able to easily hear the G, C, E, and A cells you're near. Since the maximum practical range of a cell is three to five miles, you'll be able to hear sites a bit further away. However, due to the nature of the FM transmitters at the cell sites, they capture only the strongest signals; you should be able to hear all seven cells. Which one of each cell you hear will depend on your location and the strength of the received signal. In the above diagram, you'll most likely hear the E cell in the upper right, rather than the

one on the left.

Mobile reception is almost a waste of time unless you have an outdoor antenna. And, since the mobile will be reported on the cell site, it's better to listen to the cell frequencies. You may not be able to hear both sides of the conversation if you listen only to the mobile frequencies! It is useful, however, for determining which channel cell you're in. If you use the antenna that came with the scanner, mobile range will be decreased down to one or two miles. By checking the scanner readout against the cell list above (823-838-950 MHz), you can tell what cell the mobile is in. This is also useful on the cell site frequencies. If you hear someone say, "I'm at the corner of highway FF and YY," and you know where the cell site antenna is in that area, you can check the frequency listing above and determine what cell that antenna belongs to.

Where to Get What You Need!

Obviously, a device is needed to download all those ESN/MSIN, etc. off the cellular airwaves. Here's the stuff I found so far (over \$2000 (this isn't a cheap hobby).

CCS Company, P.O. Box 11191, Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414-781-2482) They sell everything you need for \$300 to \$400. Kits are cheaper. Their device interfaces between an 802 mhz capable scanner and your computer. Make sure you tell them you want the REVERSE model DDD. (This is what I use.)

Curtis Electro Devices, 1235 Pear Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043 (800-332-2790, Fax 415-964-3734) They sell an ESN reader for \$1295 that can read ESN/MSIN, etc. You only from a short distance (maximum is 30 feet). They also sell a security model for \$1295 and a NAM programmer for \$1195. They publish a book called NAMEX for \$170 that tells you how to re-program hundreds of different cellular through the keypad on the hardware. (Note: You can't reprogram ESN's through the keypad unless you re-write the phone's software.)

Wavelink Communications, Div., 5848 Churchman Bypass, Ladlesville, IN 46203-6109 (800-345-6356 or 317-788-9665) They sell a "Cellular ID Tester" that's real similar to Curtis's ESN reader but supposedly has a longer range. Price \$1495.

Nedham Electronics, 4539 Orange Grove Ave., Sacramento, CA 95841 (916-924-8037) They sell a spin burner for \$1295 (I bought one myself).

Morlocks (800-444-5202) They sell a cellular service manual that's used in their cellular service classes for \$30. Ask for the Order Fulfillment department. Item # 68-095-07660. This manual tells it all. An absolute must to have.

Bishop Company (800-428-0572) They publish books similar to Curtis's NameX. Send for catalog.

Cellular Security

Well, we know a properly coded cell phone is virtually impossible to detect. Or is it? Security companies rely on matching call patterns of subscribers' histories to current use, i.e., when 200 calls in Egypt show up in a day or 80 long distance calls to Culman, Alabama show up in a short period, all kinds of flags and whistles go off. The security companies will even keep records of people that call numbers that have been previously called by unlisted phones, and flag the phone calling that number as a potential fraudulent phone. These flags can be set to go off by a number of parameters: number of long distance calls per hour/day/month, etc. Another method they use is when the real phone places a call and the unlisted phone places another call soon afterwards, but from a distance from the first call that's impossible to travel in such a short period of time.

Example: At 5 pm Friday, Phone A calls from Manhattan and completes call at 5:10 pm. At 5:12 pm, Phone B calls from Queens. No one can travel those distances in two minutes, thus that ESN/MSIN is flagged as a clone by the phone company. These databases are just now starting to be used in larger cities. Some software will track a flagged cell phone

from cell site to cell site.

Common disseminators cell company software looks for an identical ESN's, manufacturer model, SCM's, etc. that are likewise by the cellular phone on its REVERSE channel. If one captures all that data of the reverse channel and incorporates it in the coded phone, detection via this method becomes nearly impossible.

Some daring souls have been known to use fake ID and cards to subscribe to a cellular service, then turn out the phone before the first month's bill arrives so the investigating soul pines.

Conclusion

The future for cellular fraud is wide open. As the secret software of the over 300 brands of cellular phones in existence becomes "cracked" and reverse engineered via the underground, fraud will increase like wildfire. Virtually nothing can be done to stop the informed phone phreak as he will change ESN/MSIN's, etc. easily and frequently. A new era has dawned where the 2600 hertz tone was discovered is just now dawning via cellular phreaking.

Since I'm leaving the cat out of the bag for the first time here, I hereby dub the box needed to read reverse channels the EDD Box (Edu. Zter 12 years. I finally got to name a box.)

THE EXCLUSIVE 2600 HACKER VIDEO

Dramatic actual footage of Dutch hackers getting into an American military computer system in the summer of 1991. May be too intense for young viewers.

\$10, VHS NTSC format
2600 Video
PO Box 752
Middle Island, NY 11953
Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

A STUDY OF HACKERS

by Dr. Williams

In The Hacker's Handbook on page 123, Hugh Cornwall discussed an idea of setting up his home computer system to look and act like a mainframe system. He would let hackers attempt to gain access to it while he monitored the results. He wanted his home system to emulate the M15, the most notorious hacking target for British hackers. The hackers would get into the system and attempt to gain privileges, when unfortunately they were really trying to get into his system. Hugh did not carry out the plan, even though he did set up a sophisticated emulation of the M15. About the time he was to carry out his plan, a disgruntled employee left the M15 crew, and went to the News hanging out all of the dirty laundry. Hugh thought carrying out the stunt may get him into trouble, or at least more publicity than he wanted, so he didn't go through with it.

I just carried out this idea myself, and I thought the results were interesting.

I had just completed a class in operating systems. The class used MINIX as a model to study and modify. MINIX is an operating system compatible with version 7 of UNIX, specifically needs to be run on IBM and its clones. It has over 12,000 lines of source code written in C. After finishing the class, I decided to use MINIX because I thought it could best mimic a big computer system under the guise of UNIX.

It took me a while to build an appropriate "pseudo-system" one that I thought was capable of fooling novice users of UNIX into thinking they were indeed on a UNIX system. It would have been beyond the capacities of my machine to do all that was necessary to fool expert users of UNIX though, not to mention the time constraints I had. First I had to reformat my hard drive for the MINIX operating system. Then I had to write a device driver to run the modem, which took a while to do. I had to change physical appearances: names of files, directories, syntax of items, and emulation style. I added some characteristics - putting in games, files with interesting names, eye catching items, and additional mail facilities. Finally, I wrote the program which did the actual mimicking, which also gathered statistics of the users' activities. Overall, I spent six months worth of free time

making a satisfactory system.

The program was made to imitate UNIX in all regards. At various times, it would "show" different users on, different processes being run, disk quota, terminal statistics, free spaces, printer jobs, and so on. It showed different desk pads, had most of the files which UNIX uses for system and administrative functions, and backup schedules.

On the login screen, I was tempted to put something like "Boeing mode #2, please login", or "General Dynamics Site 3, spot 2". However, I thought this could get me more trouble or attention than I wanted, so I settled for a more generic approach:
BN Site #2
-current times-
please log in:

After login the first screen would show:

```
.....  
There was a crash on /groups on 6/8/89 at  
approximately 03:00. Some files from that  
location have been deleted. Please inspect  
your account for file integrity. Call the  
operations at ext. 3524 if you need to get any  
files from backups. There will be a gathering  
on 6/24/89 at noon in the cafeteria during  
lunch for all employees wishing to form a  
group of people interested in remote control  
cars and planes. Please call Jeff Smith at ext.  
2146 for further details.  
.....
```

And the prompt was:

```
June[1]  
Every time a command was entered, the  
number in the square brackets was incremented  
by one.
```

In the program, I left in some famous UNIX bugs, hoping somebody would try to manipulate the account into getting more privileges. I left in mail bugs, writing commands to the 25th line, and using the same encryption scheme for the password file which UNIX uses, and a few other smaller items. To egg them on, I put in games which could only be executed with privileges, and files with tempting names like CAR, DATA, PRIVATE.DOC, and DOCUM.SECRT which also could only be read with privileges. Every time the account logged off, I returned most things

back to the original setting, including any games they had made. So if a person logged on more than once, they had to start from scratch every time. I didn't like doing this, but since I thought a lot of people would be using a few accounts, I thought it would look more plausibly if the account drastically changed every time the person logged onto it. It also helped me make more accurate observations. At the time, I got a hard to agree to give up his dorm room phone for a few months, since he was taking off anyway. So I plugged the computer into theirs and let 'er go.

I wanted to put the accounts into three different targets: hackers, hacker wannabes, and the academic community. On the bulletin boards which I had hacker privileges on, I posted a message telling users to call the "head" system I discovered. The message went something like: "I recently discovered an account to a UNIX system at 555-5555. The account name is 'PAULS', with password 'dogStar'.

Have fun!"

A day later, I posted the same sort of message on different bulletin boards, those which I had only a normal status on, but where there were more "kiddies" on. I changed the account name and password. Finally, a week later, I told some of my friends by word of mouth in the academic community, but with another different account/password combination.

Something that I predicted would happen is that a lot of the sysops whose system I had posted the message aimed for the "kiddies" erased the message. Over half of them had erased the message in less than a few hours. The other half had the message erased in about a day. It still served my purpose though, because a lot of people had seen the message. I was tempted to tell the sysops whose system I had posted the message on that it was all a hoax - an experiment, but I thought some of them wouldn't keep the lid on that information.

Something which I sort of expected was that a lot of the sysops wrote me real back. Turns out that I had posted that message. Most of them thought I was pushing them in legal jeopardy (understandably). Others said that their board was not into that type of information, threatened to call the police, warned me to never post that type of message again, and even deleted my account (no loss). None of the messages to the hacker crowd were lost. I posted the message 17

times for the kiddies, five times for the hackers, and told four friends who I know passed it on to a few other people.

I suppose if somebody would have thought about it, he or she might have concluded that it's pretty hokey to post an account/password combination on a public BBS room where everybody can read it. Either I had to be really arrogant or have ulterior motives.

Within eight hours of posting the message, the system got the first call. I was really hoping that it would be somebody who knew what they were doing. I wanted to see if anyone was going to be able to jump the hoops I set up to gain further privileges. The first person didn't seem to be familiar with the UNIX operating system - they kept on trying MS-DOS commands. They couldn't do a disk directory, or any other basic operations in UNIX. In fairness, I you're not used to UNIX, it's pretty coolers unfriendly.

The next few callers seemed to know more about what was going on. They were logged on under the hackers' account. They were able to find out the attributes of the account, get a view of what the overall system looked like, and see where the ranges of the system was. A few of those were able to locate some of the targets of interest I put in, but did not gain access.

Next, the "kiddies" account took a big jump in usage. The majority of them were unfamiliar with the UNIX system. Some of them had a cursory knowledge of the basic UNIX commands, but didn't really know how to manipulate the machine.

Finally, a few calls started coming in on the academic account. Most of them didn't spend too long on the account. Since they knew more about what was going on, they took a look to see what was around and left. One or two of them tried using some of the more sophisticated commands which work on UNIX, but not on MINIX.

Over a two month period, I was able to see what the overall attributes of usage were. I don't know how many unique individuals logged into the account, but I did keep track of how many times the account was used. By looking at the log of commands from the kiddie account, about half of its usage came from people unfamiliar with UNIX. Using MS-DOS commands or commands of other PCs, really to access the help file, and no experience with the UNIX environment were characteristic of these users. Approximately a quarter of the usage came from people who had

exposure to UNIX with a basic knowledge. They were able to find out the basic structure of the account and system, wander around a bit, but did not do anything sophisticated. The last quarter had at least competent users; some were quite expert. They were able to discover items of interest, find most items of importance, gain further privileges, and attempt to hide the account that had been used.

From the 50 percent of users who were UNIX competent, only one third of them tried to gain privileges. The other two thirds must have been content where they were at. Of the others, the most popular scheme used to gain privileges was to read the password file (which, like in UNIX, is publicly readable but encrypted). This was not a bit surprising to me, since the Cornell Worm used essentially the same method. Many articles have talked about it, some showing how in a cookbook recipe manner the steps were taken. Users would try to decrypt the password file and gain the root password. The next most common method was written commands to the 25th line of a more privileged account. This wasn't surprising either, since much ado has been made about that. The rest seemed to be evenly spread around on root bugs, fixing bugs in commands which ran shells in privileged modes, or some other method.

From the third of the users left over, 32 percent of them succeeded in raising the accounts' privileges. Out of that 32 percent, 68 percent of the people were able to get at least operator privileges. Out of that 68 percent, 18 percent (25 people) were able to get root privileges. I didn't know though if that was one person who got root privileges 25 times or 25 different people. The program I had written really only mimicked the root privilege, and did not allow total control of the machine.

The sophistication of the user was directly related to the amount of "stupid" things the user did. Some of the kiddies did some real stupid things, like creating files saying something like, "Ha, Ha, I'm a hacker and I'm in your system", deleting files, or editing files in an obvious manner. Others romped around the system, checking out every file in every sub directory. Other items which were not as obvious were using the help files excessively, entering many incorrect commands consecutively, and continually trying to access items for which they had insufficient privileges. The most

knowledgeable users tried to hide their presence. Some of them successfully edited the user log without leaving a trace, kept a low profile of activities, and did not pay the games at all or for great lengths of time. Out of those who gained privileges, there was only one incidence of someone deleting a file on purpose without cause.

Overall, the kiddie account logged in 2,017 users. The hacker account logged 1,482 users, and the academic account logged 386 users. I have no way of knowing though how many unique people used the accounts. I was disappointed at the low turnout from the academic community. I talked to somebody I had given the account to, and some of the reasons seemed to be that some people just weren't into hacking, had legitimate accounts, were not curious about other systems, and just didn't want to risk getting into trouble.

Overall, the most incompetent users came from the kiddie account. The hacker account seemed to be most familiar with all of the system weaknesses, but lacked an overall understanding of the system. The academic account was just the opposite; they knew how to work the system, but did not know of the security shortcomings of UNIX. However, the best users came from the academic account, where there was probably an elite cove of students who are also hackers.

One side effect came shortly after I posted the original message on BBS's. Soon, other people started posting the kiddie account password portion, claiming they got it from a friend or had "hacked" it themselves. That's why when the sysops deleted my message, I wasn't worried, because enough people had seen to spread the word around.

I had expected some law agency to raise an eyebrow and look into the matter. After all I had done a pretty blunt thing. I did not get any questions about it though, nor did the person who owned the phone number. But then again, maybe somebody did, and I just didn't find out about it.

ALL LIFETIME SUBSCRIBERS TO 2600 WILL NOW RECEIVE 1984, 1985, AND 1986 BACK ISSUES. IF YOU'RE A CURRENT LIFETIME SUBSCRIBER, CONTACT US IF YOU WANT THESE BACK ISSUES.

2600 marketplace

COMPLETE 300+ PAGE TAP BACK ISSUE SET. NOT photo-reduced \$35; TEL back issue set \$10; cellular phone modification and conversion manual \$8. Perceptive Dynamics, PO Box 702, Kent, Ohio 44240.

MEET THE ESTABLISHMENT. Plan your calendar, scholarships available. The second annual international symposium on "National Security & National Competitiveness: Open Source Solutions" will take place in the Washington DC area the week of 2 November 1993. Cyberspace

plaza and hackers in demand as speakers and to display good "hacks" pertinent to finding, collating, and presenting information useful to decision-makers. Hackers are a national resource - but the policy-makers and business barons (e.g. those uninformed by Forbes) need to understand this. Come out your stuff, save the unutilized, have a good time. To discuss further, communicate with steering@well.st.ca.us or fax to (703) 538-1776.

LOOKING FOR OLD TELCO VANS for purposes too illot to mention here. Contact Bob: (516) 751-2600.

WANTED: Any "good" text files (2600 related). Will pay money. Contact me on Private Yahoo BBS (208) 338-9227.

DEAD PROGRAMMERS SOCIETY BBS (514) 698-7091. Seize the day, Canada's gateway.

CALLER ID'S \$39.95 PPD. Surveillance, counter surveillance equipment. Catalog \$5. Dealer wanted. EDE, PO Box 337, Buffalo, NY 14226.

STUDENT HACKER seeks any and all information, plans, magazines, books, schematics, etc. related to hacking, prebaking, electronics, computers, phones, cable TV. Willing to exchange any information I find from my own research. Also looking for any single issue of TAP and Wired Magazine. Write: J.C.B., 5015 Club View Drive, Concord, NC 28025.

SCANNER FOR SALE: Bearcat 800XLT (includes cellular). Excellent condition. Original box/papers, 20 hours on time. \$185. Insured UPS to your door, \$35 for 800 MHz/cellular ground-plane antenna. Call/leave message for Jon (213) 344-8158.

THE PERFECT PORTABLE HACKING

COMPUTER! NEC Ultratec Notebook Computer, 640K RAM, BACKLIT LCD, it also has a Solid State 1Mb Silicon Disk. ALL THIS ONLY WEIGHS 4.4 LBS! Factory Return. Only \$500!! Free built-in 2400 baud modem. For a 2mb Silicon disk add \$50. For an external Disk Drive, add \$50. Supplies LIMITED! Send Check or M.O. + \$7.50 SH. C.O.D. avail, add \$4.00. AI Technologies, Inc., P.O. Box 1053, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602-1053.

THE GOLDEN ERA REBORN! Relive the thrill of the golden era of hacking through our exclusive collection of H/P BBS Message Bases. Posts from over 40 of the most popular boards such as SBBS, OSUNNY, PLOVERNET, LOD, PHOENIX PROJECT, and more. Available in IBM, Amiga, & Macintosh formats. Send for the listing by: Email: lodcom@mlrtdxw.phantom.com. Snail Mail: LOD Communications, 603 W. 13th St., Suite 14-278, Austin, TX 78701. Voice Mail: 512-448-5098.

IMPRISONED UNDERGROUND ENTHUSIAST seeking correspondent. Also seeking hardcopy: cyber-related publications and Usenet feeds. Please write Shiraz c/o 7881 Crosslink, Boise, ID 83706.

AMIGA 2000, 601izer, HAM expander/HD controller, midi, modem, extra floppy, software, \$2000/best offer. (413) 528-7627.

THIS MACHINE IS BROKEN stickers, fluorescent not, made to last. For all of the broken machines in your life, \$5 per hundred, 2500 stickers, PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953.

TAP BACK ISSUES, complete set Vol. 1-91 of QUALITY copies from originals. Includes schematics and indexes, \$100 postpaid. Via UPS or First Class Mail. Copy of 1971 Esquire article "The Secrets of the Little Blue Box" \$5 & large SASE w/52 cents of stamps, Pete G., PO Box 463, Mt Laurel, NJ 08054. We are the Original!

Marketplace ads are free to subscribers! Send your ad to: 2600 Marketplace, PO Box 99, Middle Island, NY 11953. Include your address label. Ads may be edited or not printed at our discretion. Deadline for Summer issue: 5/15/93.

Getting your file...

by Raymont

There exists, somewhere, a file on you. Maybe you know about it, maybe you don't. It's there either way. As some Greek guy once said, Know Thyself. At the very least, know what they know.

The following addresses are useful for getting your credit records. Call or write, and they'll probably be "kind" enough to walk you through the process of getting one. For a fee.

Equifax Credit Information Services
Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374-0421
800-685-1111

Your credit history is available for \$1 in Maine and Missouri, \$1 in Maryland, \$10 in Massachusetts, \$10 in Vermont, \$8 in all other states.

TRW Consumer Complimentary Report

Box 2350

Chatsworth, CA 91313-2350

214-235-1200 (Dallas HQ)

(This is the address to use if you have not been denied credit in the past sixty days.)

Your credit history is available for free, one copy a year.

TRW Consumer Assistance Center

Box 749029

Dallas, TX 75274

214-235-1200

(This is the address to use if you have been denied credit in the past sixty days.)

Also free, also only one copy a year.

Trans Union Corp.

Box 7000

North Olmsted, OH 44070

216-779-2378

Free if you've been denied credit in the past sixty days. Otherwise, \$15 for an individual account record, \$30 for a joint account record.

Keep in mind, requesting copies of your credit history affects your credit history negatively! I guess they figure if a lot of people are checking you out, there must be some cause for concern. If you do this at all, do it once a year. Also a keen way to know someone's credit rating, though the volume at which you'd have to do it would become ridiculous.

The next address is for medical information.

Unlike requesting credit reports, this shouldn't adversely affect your rating.

Medical Information Bureau

Box 105

Essex Station

Boston, MA 02112

617-426-3660

Free, believe it or not.

Now for the fun stuff. Use these next addresses to get information about your criminal record, or just to see if the feds have you listed as someone worth watching. Incidentally, if you don't have a record with them, requesting copies of one will make them start one. Again, I guess the reasoning is if you ask, you must have something to hide.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Attn: Freedom of Information Section

10th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20535

202-324-4520

This is the address to use if you do not have a criminal record.

The first 100 pages are free, but then it's \$0.10 a page. If your report is more than 100 pages long, well...hully for you.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Identification Div., Rm. 10104

10th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20535

202-324-2222

This is the address to use if you do have a criminal record.

This costs you seventeen bucks, because

crime (after all) doesn't pay. Criminals do.

The least interesting, but by no means least useful, address is the next one, for Social Security information.

Social Security Administration

Wilkes-Barre Data Operations Ctr.

Box 20

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18767-0020

800-772-1213

This is free. Since it's also a government office, I'd request a report three or four times a day. Get the most bang for your taxpayer buck, but please...recycle all that paper.

Lawsuit Filed Against Secret Service

Action is Taken on Behalf of DC 2600 Meeting

The Secret Service may have thought that harassing a motley crew of hackers in a shopping mall would have resulted in nothing more than the intended goal of sending them scurrying back to their underground hideouts, feebly awaiting a knock at the door. But when the Washington D.C. 2600 meeting was detained, searched, and ejected from Pentagon City mall by mall security officials, seemingly acting on behalf of the Secret Service, we knew exactly where to go: to the press and the lawyers.

Since the initial article has appeared in the *Journal of Consumer Watch Dogs*, the *Washington Post*, this is in addition to an uncountable number of pieces throughout the Internet and over bulletin boards. This was certainly more attention (or anyone at the Secret Service could have anticipated).

Unfortunately for them, they were not even allowed to stink away, red-faced at their booted job. Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, whose membership applications were seized at the November meeting, were the first to express interest in our predicament. The Electronic Frontier Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union would soon follow in offering their legal counsel.

CPSR filed two Freedom of Information Act requests with the Secret Service on behalf of several meeting-goers who were interested in possible legal action against the perpetrators of the "raid". The Secret Service returned the requests, saying that they had no information on any of the

meeting-goers. This immediately raised suspicion,

as the mall security personnel confessed everyone's name and phone number at the November meeting. Presumably this information was on file somewhere. Also, one of the meeting-goers had been visited by the Secret Service about two years ago, completely unrelated to anything computer-oriented. Presumably a file was created on him at that time, and yet the Secret Service said they had no information on anyone involved. Thirdly, one of the meeting-goers was visited by the Secret Service subsequent to the meeting. During this visit, one of the agents made reference to his name being on "the mall list". It seems highly unlikely that the Secret Service had absolutely no information on any of the people or whose behalf CPSR filed FOIA requests.

Acting on these strong suspicions, on February 4th, CPSR filed suit against the Secret Service for failing to provide information requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The SS has thirty days to respond.

All of this is nearly a preliminary game of legal hide-and-seek to establish what role, if any, the Secret Service and other government agencies might have played in the November 2600 raid. Once everyone involved stops contradicting each other and a clearer image forms of who was behind the harassment, we can begin to consider other possible legal avenues to send the Powers That Be a strong message about what to expect when trying to intimidate a group of hackers.

Stay tuned.

2600 ROBBED OF TOUCH TONES

All right, it isn't all that much of a story. But it is worthy of note that for nearly ten years, we've enjoyed the use of our touch tone phones here at the 2600 offices. But several months after our central office was cut over from a crossbar to a 55 ESS digital switch, we found that all of our touch tone phones no longer cut the fiberoptic. You see, we have steadfastly refused to pay a surcharge New York Telephone levies on anyone who uses a touch tone phone. The charge is some (under \$2 a month) but it's the principle. It's a fact that there is no special equipment needed to process touch tones. Quite the contrary, it takes special equipment to receive touch tones! It's no more short of

blackmail. Our phones still generate tones that are perfectly audible - only not for dialing. Essentially, it wasn't hard at all to switch every thing - phones, computers, fax machines - to pulse dial. It takes longer to do and the more \$5 and \$3 we generate, the more we fix up New York Telephone's equipment. That's how it goes.

To give you an idea of the absurdity of the situation, this is what New York Telephone has to enter into their computer to stop generating our touch tones:

RCVA:APPENT
FORM:1V8A:CHG:IN:5112600:TT:YLAND
They want to charge us \$15 a line that

British News

by The Dark Knight

Sex, Lies, and

Audiotape

The government clampdown on telephone chatlines appears to have had an unfortunate effect on innocent telephone services.

Infosate, a West Country telephone sales business, may have to close after a judge ruled that its adult dating service was a type of chatline. As such, Infosate would have to pay 20,000 pounds towards a scheme to compensate BT customers who found their phone bills had rocketed because their children were constantly telephoning chatlines.

Anthony Chappell, proprietor of Infosate, said the 20,000 pound bill would push his company into receivership. But worse still, Chappell said the regulations on chatlines would force him to record his customers' dating conversations. Chappell said the recordings would include the most intimate details.

On hearing this there are undoubtedly hundreds of 2600 readers wiring in horror at the realisation that every time they ring an adult dating service their every word is being taped. I consider this to be an outrageous invasion of privacy, and hope that there will be a change in the law.

Keeping The Poles Apart

BT engineers are up in arms about telegraph poles. They have refused to climb non-union poles which had been fitted by private firms in London and

the Midlands.

It is a protest about changes to traditional working practices. The engineers had previously replaced old poles with new ones, but left the old poles to be collected at another time. This meant that they were paid twice for visiting the same site.

A compromise scheme is now in place whereby the engineers have agreed to pilot a bold new initiative dreamed up by BT.

They will collect the old poles at the same time as the new ones are fitted! *All Down To Those*

Family Connections

How many of you have experienced the pleasures of contacting BT's accounts department about that phone bill you know you've paid, but BT's computer says you haven't?

Sarah Carsberg was sent a final reminder and one of those friendly letters advising you that your connection is in danger of being severed if you don't cough up. She obligingly delivered the forty pounds she owed.

Unfortunately there were a few crossed wires somewhere and Sarah was out of anyway. She complained. Nothing unusual in that, of course. People are always complaining about BT.

What is interesting is the fevered response her complaint seems to have generated. Not only was she swiftly reconnected, but BT has launched an internal inquiry into why this cock-up occurred in the first place.

Optimistic to the end, I would like to think this is indicative of a new era

of customer responsibility at BT, but I can't help feeling there were other factors in play here.

You see, Sarah Carsberg just happens to be the daughter of Sir Bryan Carsberg, who just happens to be the boss of telephone watchdog Ofel, the permanent thorn in the side of BT's prancing piper.

BT Charges Frustrate

Competitors

The government has received proposals from over 20 companies wanting licences to run telecommunications services, but a large number are expected to pull out because of restrictive interconnection charges.

Following market deregulation in March, the department of Trade and Industry has received bids from companies keen to compete with BT and Mercury. But the proposed new system of connection to BT's network is seen as anti-competitive.

Vivienne Peters, chief executive at the Telecommunications Users' Association, said since the access connection proposals were announced members had expressed pessimism over the likelihood of any real competition.

"The proposals are a barrier to competition as profit levels will be too narrow for reinvestment. As companies are still unsure of what the costs will be it is difficult to make business plans. I expect a huge fall of interest," said Peters.

Recently John Rodwood, corporate affairs minister at the DTI, said a number of the twenty proposals included "substantial telecommunications systems and innovative technological approaches." National Telecommunications, the

engineering arm of the former Independent Broadcasting Authority, has expressed interest in providing telecom services.

A spokesman for National Telecommunications said the company was considering a number of options that combined its traditional broadcasting skills with telecommunications. ***

Northern Telecom has won a 6.8 million pound contract from BT's internal networks organisation. Northern Telecom is supplying an automatic call distribution system to speed up BT's pick-up rate on customer enquiries in Greater London. ***

Dowry Communications, in collaboration with local supplier Omnicron Praha, has won orders in Czechoslovakia totalling 700,000 pounds. Dowry is to provide business and technical support as well as hardware, including X.25 packet switching networks, to the Czechoslovak state and commercial banks.

2600 HAS A FULL LINE OF BACK ISSUES FOR YOUR HACKING NEEDS. SEE PAGE 47 FOR DETAILS. (PAGE 47 HAS NO PAGE NUMBER.)

2600 MEETINGS

New York City

Clitcorp Center, in the lobby, near the payphones, 153 E 53rd St, between Lexington & 3rd. Payphones: 212-223-9011, 8927, 212-308-8024, 8192.

Poughkeepsie

South Hills Mall, off Route 9. By the payphones in front of Radio Shack, next to the food court. Payphones: 914-297-9823, 9854, 9855.

Washington DC

Pentagon City Mall in the food court.

Cambridge, MA

Harvard Square, inside "The Garage" by the Pizza Pad on the second floor.

Danbury, CT

Danbury Fair Mall, off Exit 4 of I-84, in the food court. Payphones: 203-749-9995, 203-734-9854.

Philadelphia

30th Street Amtrak Station at 30th & Market, under the "Stairwell 7" sign. Payphones: 215-222-9890, 9891, 9779, 9799, 9832, 215-397-9751.

Pittsburgh

Parkway Center Mall, south of downtown, on Route 279. In the food court.

Fort Lauderdale

West Hollywood Bowling Alley, 296 South State Route 7. Call voice mail for details or changes: 305-580-9214, 1004.

Atlanta

Meetings announced on local BBS (404) 612-0340.

Chicago

Century Mall, 2828 Clark St, lower level, by the payphones: 312-923-2695, 2875, 2685, 2994, 3287.

Ann Arbor, MI

Galleria on South University. Payphones: 313-663-9727, 9410.

Bloomington, MN

Mal of America, food court.

St. Louis

Galleria, Highway 40 and Brentwood, lower level food court area, by the theater.

Austin

Norcross Mall, across the skating rink from the food court, next to Pipe World. Payphones: 512-453-9834, 9835, 9316.

Los Angeles

Union Station, corner of Macy & Alameda. Inside main entrance by bank of phones. Payphones: 213-972-9358, 9368, 9506, 9519, 9520, 213-625-9923, 9924, 213-514-9849, 9972, 9918, 9926.

San Francisco

4 Embarcadero Plaza (inside). Payphones: 415-398-9903, 4, 5, 6.

Seattle

Washington State Convention Center, first floor. Payphones: 206-345-9300, 9301, 9304, 9309.

Munich, Germany

Hauptbahnhof (Central Station), first floor, by Burger King and the payphones. (One stop on the S-Bahn from Hackerbusccke - Hackerbrügel) Birthplace of Hacker-Bachor beer. Payphones: +49-89-591-835, +49-89-552-541, 542, 543, 544, 545.

All meetings take place on the first Friday of the month from approximately 5 pm to 8 pm local time. To start a meeting in your city, leave a message and phone number at (516) 751-2600.

WHY SUBSCRIBE?

SOME OF YOU WHO PICK US UP ON NEWSSTANDS HAVE BEEN CALLING TO TELL US THAT IT'S CHEAPER TO BUY \$600 ON THE STANDS THAN IT IS TO SUBSCRIBE! WE KNOW MANY MAGAZINES OFFER NEWSSTAND DISCOUNTS. DRUG DEALERS ALSO OFFER THEIR PRODUCTS AT LOWER PRICES UNTIL YOU GET HOOKED. BUT THAT'S A BAD ANALOGY. SO WHY SUBSCRIBE? YOU WON'T HAVE TO ENGAGE IN DEGRADING STREET BRAWLS OVER THE LAST ISSUE IN YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE. YOU WON'T HAVE TO TOSS AND TURN AT NIGHT WONDERING IF THE BOOKSTORE CLERK IS ACTUALLY AN INFORMANT WHO WILL TURN YOU IN FOR READING SUBVERSIVE MATERIAL. YOU WON'T FACE THE RIDICULE AND SOON THAT COMES FROM ASKING FOR A MAGAZINE THAT NOBODY ELSE HAS HEARD OF. BY SUBSCRIBING, YOU WILL GET YOUR ISSUES DELIVERED RIGHT INTO YOUR OWN HANDS A GOOD TWO WEEKS BEFORE THEY HIT THE STANDS. NO NEED TO GO OUTSIDE AND RISK INFECTION. AND ONLY SUBSCRIBERS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE 2600 MARKETPLACE!



INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION

1 year/\$21 2 years/\$38 3 years/\$54

CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTION

1 year/\$50 2 years/\$90 3 years/\$125

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTION

1 year, individual/\$30 1 year, corporate/\$65

LIFETIME SUBSCRIPTION

\$260 (also includes 1984, 1985, 1986 back issues)

BACK ISSUES (\$25 per year)

1984 1985 1986 1987 1988

1989 1990 1991 1992

(OVERSEAS: ADD \$5 PER YEAR OF BACK ISSUES)

(Individual back issues for 1988 to present are \$6.25 each, \$7.50 overseas)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON BACK